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**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

ADVANCE COPY

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NO.45

This volume covers the period December 1 - 31, 1987.



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ISLAMABAD

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SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE

World mass media in general, and Moscow in particular, gave extensive coverage to military developments in the Khost district of Paktiya province in December 1987. According to Mujahideen sources 319 engagements took place in 27 out of 29 provinces. They carried no reports from Uruzgan and Laghman.

As against this radio Kabul reported 48 incidents in 9 provinces. According to these reports the highest number of engagements took place in Paktiya, Faryab and Kunduz. Of these 48 reported engagements, 25 were security forces operations and 23 were termed as terrorist acts undertaken by the Counter Revolutionaries..

In December, radio Kabul highlighted release of prisoners under "general amnesty". In all, 3227 prisoners were reported to have been released in 15 provinces.

Soviet-Kabul forces conducted atleast 83 air and 42 ground operations.

It might be said that during the closing month of 1987 the Soviet-Kabul forces were very active and on the offensive in the Paktiya province. In most other provinces they were essentially on the defensive, as if conserving or holding in reserve their sources of men and materials for future.

It appeared that Mujahideen too were not expanding activity above a certain level. Nevertheless, the geographic scope of the Afghan war remained the same as in previous months. (See Appendix-15).

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Paktiya, Ningarhar and Kabul followed by Faryab, Qandahar and Herat provinces.

Urban conflict was reported from 16 provincial capitals. The four major Afghan cities, i.e., Kabul, Qandahar, Herat and Jalalabad witnessed sizeable conflict in December..

Appendix 1 carries some information on Afghan troops' defection to Mujahideen in December 1987.

* The authors wish to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad in the preparation of this monthly report.

Peace Zones

A radio Kabul report on December 20 stated that Peace Zones had been established in Herat province. All the same it reported 6 military engagements in Herat province on December 9, 12, 17, 26 and 28.

Similarly on December 12 Kabul radio said that 93 villages of Gardez and 24 villages of Said Karam areas of Paktiya province were declared Peace Zones. Nevertheless, as it transpired from later reports the Mujahideen and Kabul-Soviet forces were locked up in major battles in the same area and there could not be "peace" as such, in those parts.

Provinces along Pakistan borders

Mujahideen attacked a brigade headquarter and offices of military intelligence and customs in Qandahar city. The building of the 34th brigade headquarter was damaged. Mujahideen also raided Soviet-Kabul positions in Mohallajat and Dand suburbs of Qandahar city.

Mujahideen fired over a hundred long-range rockets at a military camp in Ghazni on December 3. They also attacked regime militia in Uchin area of Ningarhar.

Mujahideen killed a Khad officer when they attacked a mobile group near Shilman on December 7.

Both Mujahideen and Kabul sources reported military engagements in Kunar province during December 1987.

Provinces bordering Soviet Union

Military activity was reported from all the ten provinces that share borders with the Soviet Union. Noteworthy operations took place in Faryab and Balkh provinces.

Mujahideen attacked some military posts guarding Faizabad airport in Badakhshan. They captured a number of Afghan soldiers and seized large quantities of arms and ammunition.

In Badakhshan Mujahideen blew up a portion of the pipeline that carries gas to the Soviet Union.

Provinces bordering Iran

Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul security posts in Zendajan, Mir Daud base in Guzare district, Khana-e-Ghoria and in the vicinity of Herat city, as well as, Dopushta.

Mujahideen also hit mobile detachments of Soviet-Kabul troops in Babaji along Herat - Islam Qila highway, Chaka, Kuch-e-Nak and Farjae villages.

In Farah province Mujahideen hit a military centre at the provincial headquarter as well as targets in Bala Bolak and Jawin districts.

Central provinces

Mujahideen fired rockets at Bamiyan city's military garrison on December 19.

Regime troops attacked a Mujahideen centre in Ghour's provincial headquarters Chagharan. Regime troops also attacked Mujahideen positions at Gurg-e-Koshi. Here they arrested some civilians.

Convoys attacked in December 1987

Mujahideen ambushed Soviet Kabul convoys, patrol units and other mobile detachments in December 1987. Such attacks occurred near Panjwai, Qandahar province on December 12 and 13, near Jaldak in Zabul province, and in Ningarhar on December 15.

Mujahideen attacked a military convoy in the Chohab district of Takhar inflicting heavy losses on Soviet-Kabul forces.

Mujahideen also waylaid Afghan government troops on Kunduz - Sher Khan highway, and in Ghor Mach town of Badghis.

In Logar province a Gardez (Paktiya) bound convoy was ambushed near Altimur and another near Pole Alam.

Armoured columns were attacked in Maidan Shehr and Chak areas of Wardak.

MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

The recent activity in Khost district of Paktiya province raises several questions: Who initiated the activity? Why did one or the other - or both - parties to the Afghan conflict involve themselves in this costly adventure in Khost?

What political and military gains they aspired to achieve? What in particular had induced Soviet troops to switch over from mainly a supportive stance to a more active combat role in Paktiya? Why was Khost given a high profile coverage especially by the Soviet media?

To begin with, it would seem the Mujahideen tightened the seige of Khost during November. They plugged vantage points from where some tribesmen had been smuggling supplies to Khost. Even airdrops by the Afghan airforce had become difficult in this area.

The availabilities position - even of foodgrains and essential goods-had become acute in Khost. At the Loi Jirga in Kabul, November 29, Dr. Najib read out a letter, supposed by to have been received from the elders of the tribes in Khost, painting a grim picture of the conditions prevailing there.

Dr. Najib offered the "extremists" a twenty-day cease fire so that Khost was resupplied and its blockade lifted.

A close appraisal of the day-to-day developments in Khost would suggest that Moscow and Kabul authorities were aiming at more than resupplying a famished garrison town. Dr. Najib's speech planked in a major propaganda effort supplementing Soviet-Kabul military goals. Najib's speech was meant for domestic political consumption both in Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Moscow TV in its December 19 newscast admitted that "these combat actions are aimed at achieving not just military objectives, but political ones as well."

The newscast highlighted the strategic importance of Paktiya saying that it was "saturated" with "dushman" centres for training fighters and that from those parts passed supply routes of the partisans fighting the Kabul regime. The newscast acknowledged that "for nine years (Khost) district's population had been practically held hostage by the counter-revolution."

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gerasimov briefed foreign journalists. Radio Moscow in its December 24 Urdu language commentary quoted him as saying that "Counter-Revolutionaries attempted to capture (Khost) city for separating it from Afghanistan and proclaiming a government of their own there."

Analysts tend to think that some other Soviet considerations with reference to their December operations in Khost might have been:

- i. To provide the Soviet-Kabul troops a moral booster and more particularly to bolster Kabul regime militarily.
- ii. To achieve a symbolic victory, howsoever transient and illusory, to strengthen Kabul regimes' position for future political negotiations.
- iii. To provide essential supplies to Khost garrison immediately.

Some long term objectives of the Soviets could have been to hinder if not interdict Mujahideen supplies passing from Khost to some 17 Afghan provinces and to impell Mujahideen to use up and exhaust the sophisticated air defence weapons.

It was thought reasonable to believe that the Soviets would like to destroy Mujahideen bases and supply depots before pulling out of Afghanistan in the (howsoever remote) eventuality of arriving at an international agreement, or a "political solution" of the Afghanistan problem.

They might also have conceived of bargaining with Mujahideen commanders on terms favourable to themselves after dealing mighty blows on their strongholds.

The precise timing of the news-break on arrival of supplies to Khost is worth noting. It coincided with the 9th anniversary of the Soviets intervention in Afghanistan. On that day Afghan refugees - and their supporters all over the world - held protest meetings and demonstrations condemning the Soviet Union and Moscow - propped regime of Kabul.

Now let us examine and estimate losses the two sides suffered in and around Khost area last month.

According to Mujahideen sources the Soviet-Kabul forces casualties were:

Soviets troops: 191

Kabul troops : 215

Soviet-Kabul
unidentifiable: 135

Defections : 600 Kabul troops defected and captured

Mujahideen casualties : 150

Afghan civilian casualties: 45

December 30 issue of Kabul New Times carried details of rebels losses as:

1,45,000 S-S rockets with two launchers;

20 rocket launchers with 21,000 shells;

Three recoilless guns with 60,000 shells;

17000 boxes of DSHK shells;

86000 Zikuag shells, and

Hundred of other assorted weapons, ammunition etc.

The same issue of Kabul New Times reported that in Khost "armed forces ... crushed 1,603 extremists". The report added:

"Since the beginning of the (Khost) operation, seven service men of our armed forces including one officer and six men, have been martyred, and 26 others injured".

Those who expected action-packed photographs from the battle area might have been disappointed. Uptil January 4, only thrice did Kabul times carry photographs of "people and soldiers in Paktiya." Neither Kabul New Times nor the "Haqiqat Enqilab" carried any photographs of the dead bodies of the reported "1603 extremists crushed".

Faryab Province

Faryab province witnessed heavy fighting, reported both by the Mujahideen and Kabul sources.

Soviet-built planes bombed rural localities south of Maimana city. Fifty civilians were killed in the bombing.

In a daring urban operation early December, Mujahideen attacked the Faryab central prison. Mujahideen were able to break in and got some 900 prisoners released. The Mujahideen also attacked some security posts. Soviet-Kabul troops, with reinforcements from Balkh province, attacked Mujahideen forcing them to retreat to their "hideouts". Soviet-Afghan aeroplanes heavily bombarded Mujahideen positions and the rural population in the vicinity.

Province-wise survey analysis contains details of other major operations that took place in Garbagh district of Kabul province, Ningarhar and Herat.

PROVINCE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Province Bordering Pakistan

NIMRUZ (Also bordering Iran)

Muj Sources:

On November 9, the Muj attacked and destroyed three enemy tanks in Char Burjak.

A reconnaissance aircraft crashed in the area. Soviet aircraft bombarded the area.

HILMAND

Muj Sources:

The Mujahideen shot down a helicopter near Lashkargah, provincial headquarters, December 12. It was flying over Mujahideen positions and was hit by anti-aircraft gun fire.

VOA:

A Mujahideen unit in Afghanistan's Southern province of Hilmand killed three tribal elders, December 12, when they were on their way to a village near Gush (ph) city. Mujahideen sources in Pakistan's border city of Quetta say the three men were among the more than 1500 representatives who attended the Grand Tribal Assembly in Kabul. (Dec. 20, 1987).

In Hilmand province Mujahideen say they have destroyed one Communist militia security post and heavily damaged another on December 10. The attacks occurred in the provincial capital of Lashkargah. Fourteen militias were reported killed and eight wounded. Mujahideen captured 15 light weapons and two heavy machine guns with large amounts of ammunition. Reports that could not be independently confirmed say two Mujahideen were killed in the attacks and two wounded. (Newsline-English: Dec. 21, 1987).

QANDAHAR

Muj Sources:

At least 90 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured during Mujahideen attacks on an army brigade headquarter and military intelligence and Customs offices in Qandahar city during the last week of November. The Mujahideen using rockets and missiles destroyed a number of barracks as well as godowns. At the Customs House the Soviet-Kabul

reinforcements blocked the retreat of Mujahideen for some time and in a fiercely fought action they suffered 33 casualties, 9 of them fatal. The rest of the raiding party were able to return to their base areas.

On November 29, the Mujahideen hit an army control centre in Mohallajat, a suburb of Qandahar city, destroying a tank and five other vehicles. The Mujahideen captured a machine gun, 70 Klashnikov rifles and a quantity of food.

On December 4, Mujahideen attacked army establishments in Dand. During a day long action in this suburban vicinity of Qandahar city, more than 50 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed. Eighteen Mujahideen were also killed and 52 injured, mainly by aerial bombardment. One of the attacking aircraft was hit and brought down by heavy machine guns fire.

One of the regime security posts was demolished.

A group of Mujahideen intercepted a mobile force near Panjwai township on December 12. A tank and another armoured vehicle were destroyed by rockets. The Mujahideen captured a jeep.

Mujahideen attacked a military convoy in the same area on the following day, December 13. A jeep was destroyed and 4 Kabuli soldiers captured.

VOIR:

Mujahideen attacked a base of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Qandahar on 19th of December. They killed a number of Communist troops and captured 60 enemy troops. They also destroyed several tanks.

Another report from Qandahar says that the Mujahideen attacked a position of the Soviet-Kabul troops near the Qandahar airport and killed 21 Communist troops.

The Mujahideen are also reported to have shot down an enemy aircraft in Qarabagh area. (News-Pushto: Dec. 26, 1987).

Radio Teheran:

Muslim Afghan Mujahideen attacked a military camp in Qandahar and killed or wounded 90 Communists including high ranking army officials. During the operations major portion of the centre of the Commando Division No.34 of Kabul government was destroyed.

Similarly the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries hit Customs Office of Qandahar city with missiles and damaged its installations and captured a large quantity of arms. (News-Urdu: Dec. 10, 1987.

BBC:

Authorities in Afghanistan say that a group of former rebels in the southern province of Qandahar have captured a West German secret agent. The man named Ofnada Mear (ph) is said to have admitted that he had illegally crossed the border from Pakistan, and had been training rebels in terrorist activity and getting information from agents among the Afghan population.

He is said to have been instructing rebels to fire American made Stinger missiles against Afghan government aircraft. (News Desk-English: Dec. 25, 1987).

VOA:

The bloody clashes between militia of tribal leader Ismat Ullah Muslim and the Interior Ministry troops that took place during the Loya Jirga in Kabul authority have spread to southern Afghanistan also and fighting has broken out between General Muslim's militia and government troops in Qandahar. Here is VOA correspondent in Islamabad, Irfan Ghazi:

Quoting Afghan sources in Kabul, western diplomatic sources said in Islamabad on Tuesday that the Defence Minister, General Mohammad Rafi had arrived in Qandahar to stop the bloodshed whose intensity could be estimated from the fact that two plane loads of dead bodies and wounded personnel had reached Kabul from Qandahar during the past few days.

Two years ago, Ismat Ullah joined the Communist government which appointed him Commander of the Militia in southern Afghanistan and granted him the rank of General. He recruited all the personnel of the Militia from his own tribe. Various Afghan sources say the rise of General Muslim was not liked by the Interior Minister, Syed Mohammad Gulabzai, who also heads a para-military force namely Sarandoi under his ministry. The most serious show of rivalry came on November 30 when General Muslim and his colleagues tried to forcibly participate in the Loya Jirga in Kabul which led to a clash with Sarandoi contingents. Twenty-nine persons including fifteen civilians were killed in the fighting. General Muslim also received wounds in his

leg. The same day, the Sarandois attacked the headquarters of General Muslim and another fight took place at another place in the city. A number of people were killed or wounded in the fighting.

There were some 36 posts under the supervision of General Muslim's Militia. Official vehicles could not travel in the area without a permit from the Deputy of General Muslim. Mujahideen have broken the defence line of Soviet and government troops around Qandahar city during the past weeks and there are report of concentration of Mujahideen in the suburbs of Logar in the south of Kabul. (Radio Report-Urdu: Dec. 9, 1987).

ZABUL

Muj Sources:

The Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy near the subdivisional headquarters of Jaldak on the Kabul-Qandahar highway on November 24. An armoured vehicle was hit. The Mujahideen moved back to the Liberated Area "on the arrival of reinforcements" to the Soviet-Kabul force.

GHAZNI

Muj Sources:

An armoured car hit a landmine planted by the Mujahideen on the Kabul-Qandahar highway near Muqur on November 22.

On December 2, the Muj attacked a Russian convoy moving from Kabul to Qandahar in the area of Qarabagh. The convoy, which was backed by 12 helicopters, lost two tanks and four vehicles. In addition, one APC, two anti-aircraft guns and a large quantity of communication were captured by the Muj.

On December 3, the Mujahideen made a massive rocket and missile attack on a large camp of the "Red Army" in Ghazni city. Over 100 BM-12 missiles and RPG rockets were fired on the camp near the airport. Dozens of killed and wounded were seen being moved out of the area by helicopters.

PAKTIKA

Muj Sources:

Mujahideen attacked Afghan army posts in the Urgoon subdivision on December 5. Four Kabuli soldiers surrendered to the Mujahideen. A Russian 'signals operator' was killed in one post.

PAKTIYA

Muj Sources:

Even as the so-called 'Loya Jirga' was being held in Kabul by the end of November, 1987, the Mujahideen in the Paktiya province were further narrowing their siege of the cantonment of Khost. This, by their own admission, led the Kabul Regime to mount a powerful expedition to open the Mujahideen controlled road from the provincial headquarters, Gardez to Khost ---- a distance of about 100 miles --- in order to relieve the garrison. General Najib admitted in his Loya Jirga speech that Khost was suffering from acute shortages of food and other essential supplies.

The aerial supply line between Khost and other Kabul controlled cities was also drying up. The Khost airport was vulnerable to rocket and missile attacks from a number of hill-tops in the neighbourhood which the Mujahideen had occupied. With the advent of the month of December, the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul sent forth a powerful force estimated variously between 10,000 to 20,000 men to open the Sato-Kandau Pass. This force was supported by armour and aircraft. Another column of supporting troops, and vehicles carrying food supplies and weapons, followed the one spear heading at some distance out of range of the Mujahideen holding the bottleneck at Sato-Kandau.

To begin with Soviet-made aircraft pounded the Mujahideen positions. An experienced observer, a foreigner, said that the severity of bombardment reminded him of the "World War". The battle to relieve the siege of Khost was, by all accounts, the bloodiest battle of the year in Afghanistan. Some two years earlier they had led a similar expedition to the Mujahideen base in Paktiya in the caves of Zhawar. That at best had been a technical or symbolic victory only because the Soviets could not remain in Zhawar for long. The guerillas returned and rehabilitated Zhawar.

Three important passes of the mountain, known as Sarooti Kandau, Khadi Kandau and Satu Kandau, were captured by the Russian on November 28. Paratroops landed in Sarooti Kandau and Satu Kandau. Cannons and BM-41s were positioned on the mountains and three villages of Zardan came under attack.

On November 30, 90~~0~~ regime paratroops landed near a Muj base, known as Kot, in the valley of Shabak Khel at the foot of Satu Kandau pass. On the same day, 45 regime tanks reached Kot through Khadi Kandau. The Muj fought the enemy troops in Shabak valley. The fighting resulted in the capture of some paratroops, killing of 80 regime soldiers and destruction of five tanks. On the other hand, Seven Muj, including Commander Pacha, were killed. Forty five civilians were killed and 64 wounded in the bombardment.

On December 1, aircraft and artillery again shelled and bombarded the valley of Shamal. As a result, two Mujs were killed and 13 wounded. The bombardment hit 113 villages.

On Dec. 2, plastic bombs were dropped by aircraft in Shamal valley. Anti-personel mines were found in the villages of Haji Bakhtar Gul Zadra, Masil Khan Zadrar and Griki.

On Dec. 4, regime troops from Khost and the troops from Shabak moved towards Zadrar valley. The two forces were resisted by the Muj who destroyed seven tanks and killed 38 troops. Six Mujahids were injured.

Between Dec. 9 and 12, the Muj, under the command of Commander Jalauddin Haqani, began a vast attack on Shabak, Shawak and Saruti Kandau. Thirteen regime tanks were destroyed. Three Muj were also killed.

On Dec. 15, the Muj attacked the newly established posts in Shabak. As a result, nine posts were destroyed and 130 soldiers surrendered to the Muj.

On Dec. 16, a transport aircraft was shot down by the Muj on the top of Satu Kandau. The crewmen were killed.

On Dec. 16, Regime tanks from Shabak and Shawak and enemy forces from the Khost Nader Shah Kot garrison moved towards the advancing force from Satu Kandau. However, the two attempts were foiled by the Muj. The regime unit lost five tanks, and retreated to its base. Also, eight Mujahids were killed and 11 wounded.

On Dec. 17, the valley of Zadran was heavily bombarded by regime aircraft. Following the bombardment, they tried to land paratroops in Shabak and Shawak. A number of them were killed.

On the same date, regime tanks moved again from Nader Shah Kot and Dwa Manda towards Satu Kandau. However, the troops retreated to Nader Shah Kot when they faced resistance from the Muj in Tasapari.

On Dec. 19, a significant change occurred in the situation when Russian paratroops came on the front line and landed at Zamari Kats. On Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. the paratroops moved towards Muj positions. The heaviest attack took place on the Muj post of Mia Mazak where 60 Russian paratroops were killed. Also, the Muj killed more many Russian paratroops near Nari Kats and Shino Ghaghi. On Dec. 23, Russian aircraft intending to airlift the dead faced Muj fire. As a result, two aircraft were shot down. Russian paratroops reached Mirajan Bazaar but their tanks remained in Shabak.

Meanwhile, one Mujahid, known as Shahzad Gul, said that on Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m. the Russians used gas shells on the post of Miamazak from Gardi Tseri. The gas caused vomiting among the Mujahideen as well as unconsciousness for 20 minutes and the swelling of lips, hands and feet.

On December 24, the Russian dropped paratroops in the Darya Khel Mountains, where the Muj had three posts. They captured these posts.

The joint SK infantry then moved to Mirajan Bazar, 6 k.m. South of the strategic Satu Kandau pass. The valley leading to Khost is very narrow at this point.

The next move of the Soviets was to send paratroopers to the mountains surrounding Jalaluddin Haqani's main base at Saranai, some 7 k.m. down the road from Mirajan. The Russians were apparently hoping that by taking Haqani's main stronghold they would easily gain control of the remaining part of the road. However, some 1,200 of Haqani's best fighters were present to defend the base, with a further 8,000 Muj in near by vallies. In the meantime, the SK force at Mirajan Bazaar lost more tanks on December 27.

On December 28, the paratroopers around Saranai were forced to move back to Mirajan Bazaar. Withdrawing through the valley, the paratroopers suffered heavy casualties as 600 Muj exerted continuous pressure on them. Eyewitnesses said 63 paratroopers were killed during their withdrawal.

An Afghan government force tried to break out and join hands with the force coming from Gardez. This force was attacked by the Muj in Ismail Khel, 10 k.m. west of Khost. The Afghan troops were then forced to retreat. By the time they returned to Khost's Bazaar, the Kabul regime announced that the road to the besieged city was open and in their control.

Heavy fighting was still going on near Mirajan by December 30.

According to one estimate during the period November 18 to December 29, 346 Government soldiers surrendered to the Mujahideen. A number of tanks and armoured vehicles were destroyed. Seven aircraft were shot down.

The Muj suffered about 150 dead until December 29. Due to the fighting around 10,000 families, some 60,000 people, had to leave the Zadran area. They are now in Pakistan.

VOIR:

Fighting continues in Qazian, Moru, Darband in Khost and the Soviet troops who are unable to face the Mujahideen are now making use of aeroplanes and the positions of the Mujahideen are being bombarded (Dec. 9, 1987).

Communist troops launched several attacks on the bases of the Mujahideen on 6th of December with a view to breaking the siege of Khost Ulaswali by the Muslim freedom fighters. But the attacks were repulsed by the courageous Mujahideen. Three hundred Communist troops have reportedly been killed and more than five hundred others injured in the fighting.

The report adds that three aircraft of the Communist troops were shot down. (News-Pushto: Dec. 13, 1987).

Radio Teheran:

According to reports from Afghanistan, large numbers of Communist troops have been concentrated in Khost during the last two weeks to break the siege of the Khost garrison.

During the operations, the Afghan Mujahideen foiled air raids carried out by the Communist forces. (News-Urdu: Dec. 3, 1987).

Radio Dubai:

Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad say that heavy fighting is continuing in the Eastern Afghan province of Paktiya. Hospitals in the Afghan capital Kabul are said to be full of casualties from the latest battles.

Soviet and Afghan government forces have mounted a big counter-offensive in an attempt to relieve the town of Khost which has been cut off by the western-backed Mujahideen fighters.

BBC:

Despite the deepening winter in Afghanistan, guerilla sources and western diplomats say fighting is continuing between the guerillas and Soviet and Afghan Government troops in many parts of the country, especially in the southern province of Paktiya. A report from Islamabad by George Arney:

Western diplomats here say that the guerillas have been active recently to the north, south and west of Afghan capital. They report that in the last week of November, four Government outposts were overrun near Shakardarah, about twenty miles north-west of Kabul. Guerilla sources say that a week earlier, there were attacks on their positions further north in Qarabagh district. Several Government posts are reported to have been attacked by guerillas, just over a week ago to the south-west of Kabul near Maidan Shaher and in Charasiah, fifty miles south of Kabul. Diplomats say, a Soviet convoy was ambushed on November 30th. Two days later, guerillas say they clashed with Government forces thirty miles further south near Baraki Barak. They claimed to have killed over thirty Afghan and Soviet soldiers for the loss of nine of their own men. Seven nearby villages were subsequently bombed, forcing sixty families to leave for Pakistan. However, the heaviest fighting has been in the southern province of Paktiya, where a combined Soviet and Afghan Government force estimated at over ten thousand men is trying to open the road from Gardez to the besieged garrison of Khost. (Newsreel-English: Dec. 9, 1987).

In an unusual departure Soviet television has announced the launching of a major military operation in the South-East of Afghanistan. It said the operation was directed against thousands of rebels, who had sealed off the border region of Khost.

The Soviet commentator declared that the blockade of Khost would now be lifted by military means. (News Desk-English: Dec. 19, 1987).

Brown Hammerland who has been monitoring the fighting in Afghanistan from Moscow says it is crucial for the Russians to hold the garrison of Khost in view of the negotiations going on for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country. Without outside assistance, some Western diplomats believe, the Soviets backed garrison of twenty thousand troops could be forced into surrendering:-

The current Soviet strategy in Afghanistan depends on holding key cities like Khost while attempts are made to negotiate a Soviet withdrawal. To lose one of these strong points would be a major humiliation and weaken the Soviet negotiating position. Now a joint Soviet-Afghan force is trying to drive a land route through the mountain gorges to the encircled city. But the Mujahideen say it made little progress despite three weeks of intensive fighting. But by launching and unusually publicising such a campaign, the Government has been forced to admit that its political programme has failed to win over the guerillas. (Newsreel-English: Dec. 12, 1987).

In the fighting in Afghanistan Soviet paratroopers are reported to have been dropped by helicopters several miles beyond the Satu Kandau Pass, South of Kabul, where anti-Government guerillas have been holding up Soviet and Afghan government troops for the past three weeks. The Soviet and Afghan force consisting of five divisions is trying to fight its way through a mountainous area controlled by the rebels to relieve the city of Khost not far from the border with Pakistan. Information about the fighting has been reaching Islamabad, from where George Arney sent us this report:-

The paratroopers were dropped on Sunday night from helicopters about five miles beyond the Pass. Guerilla sources say it is the first time since the massive operation to relieve Khost began that the Soviet troops have taken the

lead. But they are not the first to get over the Pass. Several hundred Afghan troops, alongwith four tanks are presently surrounded in a base which they captured from the guerillas ten days ago, just at the foot of the Pass. The Soviet paratroopers have been dropped a few miles further down the valley. They may be intending to fight their way back to rescue their trapped colleagues.

The sixty miles long road to Khost winds through the narrow mountain ways and there are twelve side valleys in which the guerillas can take cover. Meanwhile, the main force estimated by the local guerilla commander to be over twenty-thousand strong, mostly Soviet, is still on the side of the Pass. A western journalist who has just returned from the area says he has not seen such heavy fighting in five years of covering the war. In a single afternoon he saw ten different flights with eight jets each bombing guerilla positions. There are few details of casualties, but over one hundred guerillas are believed to have been killed since the operation began. (Newsreel-English: Dec. 22, 1987).

VOA:

Soviet and Afghan government troops have launched major artillery and air bombardment as part of an offensive to break the Mujahideen's siege of Khost in Eastern Afghanistan. Communist efforts have been unsuccessful for several weeks. We get details on the latest fighting from VOA's John Shultz in Islamabad:-

The beleaguered communist garrison of Khost near the Pakistani border continues to face huge problems. Throughout the eight year war communist forces there have relied on air supplies. No convoys have ever been able to find their way through Mujahideen road block. But in mid-November reinforced Mujahideen units tightened the ring around Khost. Now air supplies are few and far between and flying there is extremely dangerous. In the meantime, a force of as many as ten to twenty thousand communist troops had been building up in Gardez about one hundred kilometres North-West of Khost. Soviet special forces and commando units have been air lifted to points along the near valley roads to Khost to try to break the numerous road blocks, mine fields and ambushes set by the Mujahideen. In recent days intense artillery and air bombardments have been reported by Mujahideen commanders over a vast area from Gardez to Mujahideen's base camps eighty to one hundred kilometres South-East near Khost and the Pakistani border. For a week Mujahideen have used fire power to block the critical narrow mountain pass Satu Kandau

far from Khost and just a few kilometres from Gardez. A Western reporter just back from ten days with the Mujahideen came under artillery and air attacks. He said, that it reminded him of a scene from World War. In one afternoon alone he counted a total of eighty Soviet-built fighter bombers in ten separate air strikes, but he says the Mujahideen were so well fortified in caves and hidden in dugouts that he only saw ten Mujahideen casualties in a full week. He says when a battalion size unit of three to four hundred communist troops moved confidently up to hills thinking no one could have survived such intense bombardment, the Mujahideen popped out of the hidings and wrecked their lines with automatic weapon fire. He estimates sixty percent communist losses in an unsuccessful attempt to take the strategic Satu Kandau pass. (Newsline-English: Dec. 23, 1987).

Afghanistan claims more than sixteen hundred Muslim guerillas have been killed in the battle to reopen a strategic road. But rebels denied the claim saying they have trapped more than fifteen hundred Soviet troops and twenty thousand Afghan soldiers in battle for the road to Khost, a city near the Pakistan border. Earlier the Soviet Union reported Afghan soldiers killed a US adviser in their offensive to break the eight-year rebel siege of the garrison town of Khost. But here in Washington VOA's Roger Wilkison says the State Department denies the report stating that there are no US advisers in Afghanistan nor any US government personnel with the rebels:-

A State Department spokeswoman was asked by reporters about the Soviet press agency report that an American adviser was killed during the Afghan rebel siege of the town of Khost. She said she had seen the report but has no information on the matter. "Let me point out that there are no American advisers in Afghanistan. The only official presence in that country is limited to a staff of twenty people at the Embassy of Kabul. They are restricted to the capital city." She also said the United States supports the Afghan guerillas in any way it deems appropriate and insisted that no US Government personnel are among the rebels. She said that State Department is not aware of any US mercenaries fighting alongwith the guerillas. But she did say some private American citizens have not heeded a State Department warning that they should not travel to Afghanistan. She mentioned two American journalists who were reported killed there in October and whose bodies have yet to be returned to the United States. (Radio Report-English: Dec. 29, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

The BIA military correspondent reports from Khost district that the extremist opposition elements, using reactive (as heard) missiles, attacked BAK subdistrict and region of this major district, and damaged a number of residential houses belonging to our compatriots.

This provocative and anti-Afghan action took place at a time when the representatives of all the tribes, clans, and fraternal nationalities of the country were gathered in Kabul for the historic grand assembly to discuss the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, including in Khost major district. However, the extremists, with hearts full of grudges and without paying the slightest attention to the wish of the grand assembly, continued their savage attacks against the inhabitants of Khost major district in complete disregard of the votes of the people's delegates to the grand assembly. (News-Dari: Dec. 1, 1987).

In the successful operation of the security forces carried out for regaining the control of the Khost-Gardez highway 1603 terrorists were wiped out and a huge quantity of weapons was destroyed in Zadran area recently. Seven men of the security forces also lost their lives and twenty-six others sustained injuries. The Khost Gardez highway has now been liberated from the terrorists and opened to traffic. (News-Pushto: Dec. 28, 1987).

The military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency reports that the vigilant security forces have crushed a number of armed groups during their operation for the liberation of Khost-Gardez road. The security forces have also captured several bases of the terrorists.

The report adds that many terrorists, including their leaders, Spin Bacha, Zahir, Noor Ahmad, Aziz Shah, Jannat Noor, Akbar Khan and Bacha Khan were eliminated during these operations and many areas including Mirajan Dukanoona were liberated from the saboteurs. Similarly, the base of the terrorists, in Tornata (ph) was subjected to severe attacks and the terrorists present there were inflicted a total defeat. The security forces also captured a huge quantity of weapons from the terrorists, and destroyed a number of their arms depots, including a Stinger missile launching station. (News-Pushto: Dec. 29, 1987).

Following opening of the Gardez-Khost highway the supply of foodgrains and consumer goods has been resumed to Khost Loi Woleswali. Bakhtar News Agency reports that about 1220 tonnes of foodgrains and consumer goods loaded in 155 transport vehicles have been despatched to Khost Loi Woleswali. (News-Pushto: Dec. 30, 1987).

Radio Moscow:

The daily Pravda of Moscow has published a report captioned as "Meeting with Journalists."

The report says that a briefing of Soviet and foreigner newsmen took place in information centre of Soviet Foreign Ministry in which the President of Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Board Gonnadi Gerasimov clarified the incidents taking place in Afghanistan now. He referred to military operations in Khost city areas. The city is situated near Pakistan border. He said that counter-revolutionaries attempted to capture the city for separating it from Afghanistan and proclaiming their government there. Sidran (ph) tribes captured route between Gardez and Khost area and the government tried to solve the issue peacefully but Afghan counter-revolutionaries created hurdles which were not in favour of a peaceful solution of it. The tribes were informed a number of times that they should vacate the route between Gardez and Khost because the government officials are compelled to carry food and other commodities through aircraft but shelling was made on the transport aircraft also. During this year two cargo aircraft of Afghanistan have been shot down in Khost area in which fifty women, children and old men were killed.

Gerasimov further said that the Minister for Tribes and Borders Suleman Laiq went to Gardez and held negotiations there. During autumn this year the government decided to carry out operation for cleaning up the route in view of the deteriorating economic situation in Khost. They informed all people including the Sidran (ph) tribes of its decisions. At present eight thousand tons food items are lying in Gardez for Khost area. Military operations were ended with the beginning of Loya Jirga on 28th of November. President Najibullah raised question of the route between Khost and Gardez and about the stand of Sidran tribe. The tribe was given twenty days for consideration. On 20th of December representatives of the tribe informed that they wanted to solve the issue peacefully but counter-revolutionaries do

not allow them to do so. The spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry said that in the circumstances, the military operation has been resumed from 21st of December according to the decisions of Loya Jirga. He said that counter-revolutionaries were bearing heavy losses and a number of their weapons and ammunition have been captured by the government forces. (Commentary-Urdu: Dec. 24, 1987).

TASS (Moscow):

(Text) Moscow December 29 TASS -- Units fighting their way towards each other from the Afghan cities of Khost and Gardez linked up today, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing here.

Spokesman Genadly Gersimov told newsmen at the Ministry's Press Centre that the units advance towards each other had been greatly complicated by mines.

Each day 1,000 to 1,200 mines have been defused, Gerisimov, who is the chief of the Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, said.

The Gardez-Khost road has been liberated along its full length, he stressed.

Troops are now demining the sides of the road, restoring some of its sections that have been destroyed, and organising diversions around ruined bridges.

The road is expected to be made passable for motor traffic by December 31 and regular deliveries of all essential cargoes currently in storage at Gardez will begin from the first day in January, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The main combat activities had been conducted by Afghan forces, while Soviet military units had only supported them on commanding heights, he said. (English Despatch: Dec. 29, 1987).

NINGARHAR

Muj Sources:

On November 28, a regime convoy was attacked by the Muj in the area of Kama Daka between Kabul and Torkham. As a result 25 armed regime supporters were killed and two army trucks destroyed.

Following the attack, jet fighters bombarded the areas of Shalman and Tsatsubi for 3 consecutive hours.

On December 3, the Muj of all organizations carried out a joint attack on the district headquarters in Achin, Shinwar. As a result, 50 regime supporters were killed or wounded. Also, the Muj captured four posts in the district.

On December 5, the following incidents occurred in Ningarhar Province:

- The villages of Pakhay Khwar, Kahi, Gatu, Achin and Koshtal were bombarded by enemy aircraft. Seventy villagers were killed or injured.
- The Muj attacked Jalalabad airbase with ground-to-ground rockets. Two helicopters and several vehicles were destroyed. Also, 16 soldiers including Russians, were killed or wounded.
- The district headquarters in Momandara was attacked and its several parts were destroyed by the Muj. Several regime supporters were also killed or injured. The Muj closed Torkham-Jalalabad highway between December 1 and 8.
- The Muj attacked regime posts in Gardi Ghaus, Loya Daka, Sarhadari and Torkham. The Muj killed or injured 25 regime supporters and destroyed the posts. They also captured several weapons.
- Two bombs exploded in the areas of Jalalabad Bus Station inside Jalalabad. Several jeeps, one tank and shops were destroyed.
- In another attack, a Russian truck was attacked in the area of Darunta by the Muj. Twelve Russian soldiers were killed in the incident. In retaliation the enemy hit five civilian vehicles, killing 30 passengers.

On December 6, a regime militia post was attacked. The Muj also seized 12 weapons in the attack. On the resistance side, two Mujahids were killed and three injured.

On December 7, a heavy regime force was resisted by the Muj of all organizations in the district of Surkhrud. One tank and one APC were destroyed. Twelve Mujahids were also injured.

On December 7, Russian aircraft bombarded Pakistani territory near Landi Kotal. Several people were killed or injured.

On December 10, Muj rockets hit the 18th Regiment in Hadda Jalalabad. Three soldiers and one officer were killed in the rocket attack.

On December 12, the Muj attacked the Bazaar of Tsaukai and the post of Kulmanai with BM-1st and BM-12s. The attack resulted in the destruction of eight shops in the Bazaar of Tsaukai. Similarly, two militiamen were killed in the post of Kulmanai.

On December 13, Muj attacked the Battalion in Khugiani. More than 20 "enemy supporters" were killed, many others injured and 50 arms seized. Six Muj were killed in the attack.

On December 14, a regime force moving from Samarkhel (East of Jalalabad) to Rudat was attacked by the Muj. One APC and one water tanker were destroyed.

On December 15, the Muj simultaneously attacked a militia post and KHAD (state security police) group in Bazarak in the Kuz Kunar dist. As a result, two militiamen and five KHAD activists were killed and six others injured. The Muj also seized 12 kalashnikovs. One Mujahid was killed in the attack.

VOIR:

The Jalalabad airport has been closed for all types of civilian flights. (Dec. 14, 1987).

VOG:

In Afghanistan, more than 351 political detenus were freed under general amnesty announced last month. Official radio of the country has reported that these prisoners were released from the jails of Ningarhar, Kunar and Herat provinces. Thus a total of about 2770 political detenus have been released so far. Western diplomats in Islamabad have reported that about 100 released persons were sent to join Afghan forces units. (News-Urdu: Dec. 20, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

The military correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency reports that two terrorist groups, which were trying to cross over the border in Ningarhar and Herat provinces, were wiped out by the courageous security forces and three saboteurs were captured alongwith their weapons.

The report says that the security forces blocked the way of the terrorists and besieged them and asked the terrorists to surrender, but they opened fire at the border security forces. The security forces were compelled to retaliate and an exchange of fire took place in which the terrorist groups were wiped out. (News-Pushto: Dec. 9, 1987).

KUNAR

Muj Sources:

Soviet planes heavily bombarded Asmar, Sarkani and Narang areas during the third and fourth weeks of November killing a large number of civilians, mostly women and children. One of the attacking helicopters was shot down near Sarkani town on November 26. Forty houses were demolished in Pech area near Barikot on December 11.

On December 19, Mujahideen subjected security posts in Tapoor district to their attacks. "Considerable losses" were inflicted on the Soviet-Kabul forces.

VOIR:

According to a report, the Soviet-Kabul troops attacked civilian population in Kunar area as a result of which a number of residential buildings were destroyed in the recent past.

Another report from Kunar Province says that the Mujahideen attacked a military post of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Kunar Province as a result of which four enemy troops were killed and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was also captured by the Mujahideen. (Dec. 5, 1987).

Radio Teheran:

In another operation, the Mujahideen attacked a military base of the Soviet-Kabul forces in Lanjikhhyber (ph) area of Kunar province and killed four troops. The Mujahideen also captured a quantity of arms.

The Soviet-Kabul forces made an artillery attack in Sarkani and Naranj areas of Kunar province recently due to which a number of houses were destroyed. (News-Urdu: Dec. 5, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

According to another report by the BIA military correspondent the extremist opposition, using heavy weapons, reactive (as heard) missiles, and recoilless rifles, mercilessly attacked the surroundings of Kunar province. They martyred two to four compatriots and injured another six, including women and children.

The report adds that as a result of firing hundreds of shells from reactive, mortar, and recoilless guns 117 houses were destroyed in Sarkant district. 13 houses were destroyed in Asmar district, and 10 houses were destroyed in the surroundings of Naray district. Also, seven shops were set on fire in Asadabad city. (News-Pashto: Dec. 1, 1987).

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

BADAKHSHAN (Also bordering Pakistan)

Muj Sources:

Mujahideen conducted a series of attacks on security posts protecting the airport of Faizabad, provincial headquarters, on December 13. One of the security posts, Lai Aba, overlooking the airport was taken and yielded to the Mujahideen 2 heavy machine guns, 5 light machine guns and a quantity of other arms and ammunition. About 30 Kabuli soldiers were killed and wounded. Another seventy were captured. On the Mujahideen side, 7 fighters were killed and 12 injured. Soviet aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions.

VOIR:

The Muslim freedom fighters in an attack on the gathering place of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Badakhshan province captured 40 communists.

In this operation different kinds of weapons were seized by the Mujahideen from the enemy troops. (News-Pushto: Dec. 6, 1987).

A source of Mujahideen reports from northern Afghanistan that serious clashes have taken place between the Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops in Badakhshan, Faryab and Paktiya provinces recently in which heavy loss in men and material were inflicted on the Communist troops. (Dec. 29, 1987).

Radio Teheran:

Afghan Mujahideen during recent operations attacked a garrison of the Soviet-Kabul force in Badakhshan province and arrested 40 troops. (Dec. 5, 1987).

TAKHAR

Muj Sources:

November 23: Muj attack a military convoy (somewhere in Takhar) proceeding to Talqan, provincial headquarters.

November 24: Muj shoot down a helicopter in Chahab area.

December 5: Muj attack a security post in Chahab area. Seven Kabul soldiers and 2 Muj killed.

(Work on the construction of a large airbase in Takhar at Khawaja Ghar, some 20 kilometres from Soviet border, was reported to have been about 85 percent completed. This would be the third largest airbase in Afghanistan after Bagram and Shindand. Long range fighters/bombers and missiles are likely to be deployed at this base near the borders of China and Pakistan).

Radio Teheran:

Afghan freedom fighters destroyed an enemy tank and killed or wounded several enemy soldiers in an operation in Uruzgan area of Takhar province. In the operation, several communist troops including a senior official of Afghan secret service were also captured. (Dec. 18, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

In the light of the Presidential amnesty decree, 33 persons were released from the prisons of Takhar and Samangan provinces and 42 persons from the jail of Badghis province.

Bakhtar Information Agency reports that at the meetings held on the occasions, a number of released prisoners in their speeches expressed gratitude for the revolutionary government and the Presidential Amnesty decree as a result

of which the remaining prisoners have been pardoned. They pledged that they would spare no efforts towards bringing security and tranquility in their areas through realisation of national reconciliation. (Dec. 13, 1987).

KUNDUZ

Muj Sources:

On December 3, a regime militia group intending to carry out house-to-house searches in the district of Imam Saheb was attacked by the Muj in the area between Alaf berdi and Raj Guzar. As a result, more than 15 militiamen were killed and one APC and one vehicle destroyed. The Muj seized 17 kalashnikovs and one mortar, while seven militiamen surrendered to the Muj.

In retaliation, these villages were shelled and bombarded on December 5, which resulted in the destruction of 30 houses.

On December 5, a SK force intending to carry out house-to-house searches in the villages of Dasht-e-Archi district was attacked by the Muj.

In the ensuing fighting two tanks and three vehicles were destroyed, over 20 troops were killed or wounded, and 20 weapons captured. Ten soldiers surrendered to the Muj. Four Mujahids were killed and five injured.

The force, which intended to capture civilians for the army, was prevented from carrying out the operation.

On December 7, the Muj carried out a joint attack on the district headquarters in Chardara.

As a result of three hours of fighting, eight militiamen were killed and a regime post destroyed.

Radio Kabul:

Two groups of terrorists which were involved in subversive activities in Peshapakan (ph) area of Kunduz and Sarband area of Faryab provinces were wiped out by the vigilant security forces recently, at the call of the national reconciliation commissions and people of the provinces. (News-Pushto: Dec. 12, 1987).

A group of extremist elements, which was indulging in terrorist activities in the outskirts of Khanabad Woleswali of Kunduz province, was recently wiped out by the vigilant security forces alongwith its ring leader Hikmat Shah.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency has reported that the extremist elements were looting travellers on Kunduz-Khanabad Highway. Three light machine guns, three mortars and four rocket launchers were seized from the extremists by the security forces. (News-Pushto: Dec. 6, 1987).

BAGHLAN

Muj Sources:

In a series of operations against SK forces, the Muj captured 4 posts in Shahri Kuhana area North of Baghlan city. Nine soldiers were killed and 10 others taken as prisoners.

On December 4, a Russian convoy was ambushed by the Muj in the area of Chashma-e-Sher. As a result, two tanks were destroyed.

Muj, on December 8, destroyed a tank of a mobile force in the industrial area of provincial headquarters. The same day Muj raided a security post in Pul-e-Khumri town where a tank was destroyed and two Soviet troops were killed. The Muj captured an officer of the security post.

VOA:

In northern Afghanistan, Mujahideen have captured an Afghan army garrison. Reliable rebel sources in Pakistan's border city Peshawar say the Burkha (ph) garrison in Baghlan province fell on December 24th to the Mujahideen after several hours of intense fighting. They say of the one hundred-twenty Afghan army and secret police personnel manning the garrison, about one hundred were captured. Ten were killed and ten were wounded. The Mujahideen are also reported to have suffered heavy losses with eleven killed and twenty two wounded. The report has not been independently confirmed but delayed eye-witness accounts by the Western journalists appear to authenticate five Mujahideen successes in the North in less than two years.

Two of the victories were reported only last month from Badakhshan, and Jozjan provinces. The capture of the base in Badakhshan has enabled the Mujahideen supply convoys from Pakistan to cut their travel time by as much as two thirds.

Radio Kabul:

Following acceptance of decisions of the Loya Jirga, two groups of former opponents have given up terrorist activities in Pule Khumri and Pukhtoonkot Ulaswali of Baghlan and Faryab respectively.

According to a report of the military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency, these groups surrendered a huge quantity of arms to the security forces. (Dec. 23, 1987).

SAMANGAN

Muj Sources:

November 22: Four Soviet soldiers killed and many others injured during a Muj attack on a security post near the provincial headquarters, Samangan.

December 7: Muj dynamite gas pipeline near Kholm town interrupting supplies to the Soviet Union for two days. A tank was destroyed and two soldiers killed during fighting.

BALKH

Muj Sources:

On December 5, the Muj attacked two regime posts in the area of Asiab Gorg in the Chimal District.

The Muj attacked an SK force which was moving from Mazar to Shiberghan. Two tanks, two APCs and three other vehicles were destroyed. Three Mujahids were also killed.

On December 6, a joint attack was carried by the Muj on security posts between Balkh and Daulatabad. As a result of the attack that lasted eight hours, 8 militiamen were killed and more than 20 injured. The Muj destroyed three posts and captured 30 weapons. Aslo, five Mujs were killed and seven injured.

Two days later, Soviet aircraft bombarded villages in the area, destroying 20 houses and killing eight children, women and old men and exterminating 40 domestic animals in the villages of Baghshor and Pai Mashad.

On December 10, the Muj attacked the regime post in the village of Aq Tapa in the Char Bulak District. The attack resulted in the killing of 15 soldiers and two officers and the seizure of 11 kalashnikovs, one machine gun and one wireless set. Three Mujs were killed and two injured in the attack.

VOIR:

A report from Balkh province says that the Mujahideen fired several land-to-land rockets on the buildings of the Communist regime, in Mazar-i-Sharif inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in men and material. (Dec. 10, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

Another 31 prisoners were released in Balkh province today under the Presidential decree of general amnesty.

According to the report of a Bakhtar correspondent at a meeting held in this connection a prisoner pledged on behalf of others to cooperate in the implementation of the decisions, taken at the Loya Jirga. (Dec. 28, 1987).

JOZJAN

Muj Sources:

Muj captured 3 Kabul government soldiers during attack on a security post close to the Soviet border in Khamab subdistrict on November 4.

VOIR:

The Afghanistan resistance launched attacks on the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Sangcharak Wolesswali of Jozjan province causing heavy losses in men and material to the enemy. (News-Persian: Dec. 9, 1987).

FARYAB

Muj Sources:

Soviet planes bombed rural communities south of the provincial capital of Maimana on November 27 killing approximately 50 unarmed civilians and injuring many more. About that time 74 Afghan troops stationed at Shirin Taghab joined the ranks of the Mujahideen. They were led by their commander, Rasool Baig.

In a well-planned large scale operation carried out on December 3 the Mujahideen attacked the city of Maimana from two flanks (south and east). The main target was a central

prison which was immediately captured by the Mujahideen who broke into it and released over 900 people, most of them political prisoners.

Mujahideen then directed their attacks against security posts in the so-called security belts around the city and captured them within hours of fighting.

About 25 Russian-DRA soldiers were killed and 15 others were injured in the course of fighting in the city in addition to 9 soldiers who were captured.

Mujahideen also shot down 3 enemy jet fighters which crashed in Koochi Khana, Zargar Khana and Afghan Koot areas situated in the northern part of Maimana city.

A quantity of heavy and light weapons were seized by the Mujahideen.

After Commander Yar Mohammad and other Mujahideen entered the Maimana city at the beginning of December, Russians brought more troops from Balkh province. The troops launched attacks on Mujahideen. The Mujahideen withdrew from the city.

Russians launched their attack on Darband where Yar Mohammad's base was located on December 8. Mujahideen resisted strongly and forced the invading troops to retreat. Mujahideen shot down one helicopter and inflicted heavy casualties on Soviet-Kabul troops. Six Mujahideen were killed and ten persons injured.

Yar Mohammad and four of his Mujahideen were killed and two persons were wounded.

The next day, December 12, Mujahideen shot down an enemy helicopter.

VOIR:

Afghan Mujahideen entered the prison of Maimana city and freed hundreds of their colleagues. The attack was launched by the Mujahideen under the command of Yar Mohammad.

It may be recalled that Kabul radio on Saturday admitted that fighting was continuing in Maimana and that in the fighting 18 persons had been killed and 34 others injured.

Agency Afghan reports that half of the city of Maimana is presently under the control of the Mujahideen. But the Kabul regime aircraft are continuing air raids on the positions of the Mujahideen. (Dec. 16, 1987).

BBC:

The Afghan Mujahideen say that they had attacked the government controlled town of Maimana, situated thirty miles from the Soviet border at the end of last month. George Arney reports from Islamabad:-

According to a letter of Commander Aminullah of Hizb-i-Islami Maulvi Khalis group received in Peshawar, guerillas belonging to different groups had jointly launched an operation on Maimana of Faryab province on 26th November and captured security posts in north-east of the town. In the meantime, the of Jamiat attacked a prison inside the town and according to the letter, hundreds of prisoners were released. A few days later a convoy of armoured vehicles arrived from Mazar-e-Sharif, but the guerillas besieged it and before it could launch attack on the town and all the vehicles were destroyed. The guerillas also claim that they have shot down three jet aircraft which were bombing the area.

Fierce fighting in the Maimana is still going on. The Commander Aminullah says 18 guerillas have so far been killed and 52 others injured since December the third. They claim that 45 Soviet-Afghan troops have also been killed and 70 wounded while 6 Soviet troops were captured. But the number of casualties according to the guerillas news agency, is feared to be higher because Maimana town is situated close to the Soviet border. No further information is available so far but Radio Kabul on Saturday reported that fighting took place in Maimana and 10 civilians were killed and 34 injured as a result of guerillas attack on the town. (Current Affairs: Dec.15, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

Another report notes that the armed forces crushed another group of extremists attempting to wage war and spill blood around the Shirin Tagab District of Faryab Province. The armed forces seized 11 surface-to-surface missiles and 50 anti-vehicle mines. (News-Dari: Nov. 25, 1987).

Two groups of armed terrorists, which were operating in the outskirts of Faryab province, were wiped out and 40 members of these groups were also arrested, today.

The military correspondent of the Bakhtar news agency reports that the dwellers of Ata Khan Khwaja and Darband villages of Pukhtoon-Kot reported to the national reconciliation commission of Faryab province about the presence of these groups and asked it to send the armed forces to check the crimes of the groups.

The armed forces entered the area and asked the terrorists to surrender but they refused and resisted due to which the armed forces were compelled to open fire on them. Forty members of the groups were arrested alongwith a huge quantity of weapons, while the arms depots of the groups were also demolished. (News-Pushto: Dec. 17, 1987).

BADGHIS

Muj Sources:

November 17: Soviet planes bombed Mujahideen positions Ghowr Mach town. A Muj killed and 7 injured.

November 18: Muj attack a military convoy near Ghowr Mach. Two vehicles destroyed.

VOIR:

Mujahideen attacked a military convoy of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Ghormach area of Badghis province causing heavy losses in men and material to the Soviet-Kabul troops (Dec.7, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

Forty-two prisoners were released in Badghis Qila yesterday in accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Afghanistan. (News-Pushto: Dec. 11, 1987).

Provinces Bordering Iran

HERAT (Also bordering Soviet Union)

Muj Sources:

November 22: Muj attack security posts in Khame-e-Ghoorian area.

November 23: Muj attack a regime force at Baba Ji near Islam Qila. A tank destroyed, and a large number of troops killed. Muj wiped out 3 security posts in Chaka, Quchenak and Farjaie villages, which fell to Muj.

The Mujahideen attacked a military camp in Kashak subdivision on December 15, killing 3 regime soldiers and injuring 5. A Mujahideen was also killed.

On December 18, a tank and a truck belonging to a mobile Soviet-Kabul force were destroyed in Herat. The Soviet air force bombarded nearby Mujahideen positions and rural communities.

VOIR:

The Mujahideen carried out operations inside Herat city to check the advance of the Soviet-Kabul troops. In the attack, a number of Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured and they were forced to retreat.

And as a result of the explosion of a mine planted by the Mujahideen, a number of Soviet-Kabul troops including some officers of Herat Military Division-17 were either killed or injured.

The reports add that in retaliation the Soviet-Kabul troops carried out heavy shelling on the positions of the Mujahideen.

The Mujahideen attacked the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Hawadchamcha area near Herat airport last week. A military truck was destroyed and all the persons aboard were killed. In the attack, four Soviet-Kabul troops were also killed and eight others injured. (Dec. 2, 1987).

Another report from Herat says that the Muslim Mujahideen in a series of operations succeeded in capturing 3 security posts of the Kabul puppet regime in the city. In these operations, 30 government troops were captured and their arms and ammunition including thirty Kalashnikovs were seized by the Mujahideen. (Dec. 4, 1987).

Radio Teheran:

In another operation in Herat city the Mujahideen attacked the Afghan ruling party's office building. Twelve party members were killed. (Dec. 7, 1987).

In Mujahideen attacks on the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Rabatchaha and Khalsada (ph) areas on Herat highway an armoured carrier and two trucks of the enemy were destroyed on the 16th of December. Seven Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and ten injured, while six others joined the ranks of the Mujahideen.

Mujahideen of Kushk attacked the oil pipeline between Torghundi and Shindand. A part of the pipeline was destroyed. In the operation, one of the Mujahideen was martyred and another injured. (Dec. 24, 1987).

BBC:

Fierce fighting is reported to have been continuing around Shindand airport in southern Afghan city of Herat. The spokesman of a Mujahideen group said that all Afghan Mujahideen groups are taking part in the fighting which started on last Sunday.

He said that the Mujahideen shot down at least three Soviet MiG planes and captured nine government posts. (News-urdu: Dec. 17, 1987).

VOA:

In western Afghanistan intense fighting is reported at a Mujahideen camp near the Soviet airbase at Shindand. Rebel forces say the fighting began November 29th, when Soviet led forces surrounded the camp. (News-English: Dec. 7, 1987).

Radio Bangladesh:

One person was reportedly killed and eight others injured in a bomb blast taking place in a bazar of Herat city of Western Afghanistan. According to TASS report this bomb was planted by the extremists as a result of which many surrounding buildings were also destroyed. (Dec. 19, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

Another group of 600 armed opponents have joined the side of the government in Hazrat Khan Ulaswali of Herat province, by accepting the decisions of the recently held Loya Jirga. (Dec. 7, 1987).

According to another report, a group of extremists, who had intended to commit a crime in the vicinity of Shindand District and to create an atmosphere of fear and terror after crossing the border, were crushed by the courageous border forces.

As a result of this combat operation, which took place to prevent the penetration by terrorists and the transfer of weapons and ammunition to the Republic of Afghanistan, 11 of these terrorists were seized alongwith 1 mortar, 1 rocket-launcher, 8 other weapons, handgrenades, and thousands of ammunition. (News-Pushto: DEc. 12, 1987).

Criminal extremists in Shahr-e-Nau, Herat province, martyred one of our compatriots and wounded eight others.

A BIA military reporter reported that these criminals loaded a donkey with a large amount of explosives and took it to the most crowded part of the city, where many people were shopping, and there it was exploded. The report adds that as a result of this savage and criminal act, which occurred at around 14.30 today, a number of shops on bank street were also damaged. The peace-loving people and the national reconciliation commission of Herat expressed their condemnation and repugnance at this act of war and bloodshed at a time when our people are expecting the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in the light of the decisions and resolutions of the national reconciliation all over the country. (News-Dari: Dec. 17, 1987).

Terrorists have committed another crime in Karukh Ulaswali of Herat province.

According to a report of the military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency, the criminals fired rockets and threw handgrenades on a bus, in Chaqmaq area of Karukh Ulaswali. Twenty-eight people were martyred in this criminal act, while eighteen others seriously injured and looted by the criminals. The security forces rushed to the spot and carried the injured people to hospital. (News-Pushto: Dec. 26, 1987).

According to a Bakhtar report, terrorists fired rockets at residential areas in Herat province due to which 9 of our compatriots including women and children were killed and twenty-six others injured. (News-Pushto: Dec. 28, 1987).

FARAH

Muj Sources:

November 19: Muj attack security post at Surkh Kali in Balock subdivision.

Muj fire rockets on a mobile force at Yak Burj near Bala Balock township. A tank hit.

November 23: Muj fire rockets on a 'military centre' in Farah city, damaging barracks.

On December 1, Muj attacked a security post in Jawin districts killing 13 soldiers.

VOIR:

Fierce clashes took place between the Mujahideen and enemy troops in Dasht village of Farah province, as a result forty enemy troops were killed. (News-Pushto: Dec. 3, 1987).

The Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops in Pekal (ph) area of Farah province on Wednesday last as a result of which more than 80 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured.

Similarly the Mujahideen attacked the enemy troops in Zerkoh area destroying two tanks and a military transport truck. In the attack, more than 24 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and many others injured.

In another activity, the Mujahideen captured 14 Kabul regime troops. (News-persian: Dec. 22, 1987).

The Mujahideen have besieged a base of the Afghan government troops in Kepal (ph) area since Wednesday. One hundred and seventy troops of the Kabul regime are reported to have been killed in this operation, while five tanks have been destroyed. (Dec. 24, 1987).

VOA:

Soviet-backed Afghan government troops have surrounded a 400 men Mujahideen guerilla force near the Iranian border in Afghanistan. VOA's John Shultz says the battle has been underway since the middle of last week.

Mujahideen sources from four different political groups in Quetta confirmed that some 400 men from their fighting units are in intense battle that has been going on since December 16th. The fighting began when the Mujahideen attacked a Communist military base in Kala-e-Koh district about 30 kilometres from the Iranian border. The sources say the 600 men force at the base suffered heavy casualties from the Mujahideen rocket and artillery attack. But according to the latest reports the Mujahideen units are now surrounded by government units that reinforced the base from Farah city. (Dec. 21, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

Fifty-nine prisoners were released from jails of Farah province. (Dec. 9, 1987).

Central Provinces

BAMIYAN

Muj Sources:

December 19: Muj shell military garrison in Bamiyan city, killing or injuring 12 soldiers against 2 Muj killed.

December 23: A SK force attacks a Muj positions near Bamiyan city. Both sides suffer casualties.

VOIR:

In an attack nine KHAD personnel were killed by the Mujahideen in Bamiyan while a tank and a military transport truck were set on fire by the Mujahideen. (Dec. 2, 1987).

GHOR

Muj Sources:

November 25: Muj attack regime troops near Chagcharan, headquarters of Ghor.

December 11: SK troops attack Muj positions near Gurg-e-Goshi. Both sides suffered casualties.

URUZGAN

Nil report from all sources.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

.

KABUL

Muj Sources:

November 16-25: Muj successfully withstand SK land and air attacks on their strongholds in Qarabagh district. Muj who were using 82 mm cannons and RPG 7 rockets, destroyed 3 trucks, an ambulance, a military jeep and 3 tanks. Sixty Afghan troops were killed and over 100 injured. Muj captured large quantities of arms and ammunition from retreating SK force.

November 29: Muj attack security post at Lata Band, 6 km south of Sarobi town. Twelve Kabuli troops were killed or wounded and a tank and 3 other vehicles destroyed.

Muj fired 13 rounds of 107 mm and BM 1 rockets on targets in Kabul city. The attack was timed to coincide with the opening of the so-called 'Loya Jirga' moot of Kabul regime. The rockets were fired from Karez-e-Mir, about 8 km north of Kabul city. One of the targets was the Kabul Polytechnic, "an indoctrination centre of the KGB" and site of "Loya Jirga".

Muj attacked a mobile force in Kalkan area close to the Afghan capital on December 4 as a result of which 15 troops were captured alongwith the arms.

On Dec. 9, the Muj destroyed a tank and a jeep at Shakar Dara.

On Dec. 12, a regime post near Kabul airport was attacked by the Muj. The post, known as Rustam Qala, was destroyed and its 12 militiamen were killed.

VOIR:

Soviet bomber aircraft bombarded the civil population of the Shemali area of Kabul province early this month as a result of which 50 civilians were killed and a large number of others injured. (News-Persian: Dec. 7, 1987).

The Mujahideen have repulsed an attack of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Qarabagh area in the north of Kabul. The Soviet troops intended to bring under control the area of Qarabagh which is situated near the strategic Salang Pass. In the nine days long fighting, the Soviet-Kabul troops faced stiff resistance from the Afghan Mujahideen and were forced to retreat.

In the combat 62 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and 92 others injured. The killed persons included two Soviet military advisers and three military officers of the Kabul regime. (Dec. 9, 1987).

Rockets jolted the city last night. This shelling was reported to be the heaviest during the past one month. (Dec. 20, 1987).

Mujahideen launched an attack on a military base in Shakardara inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the Soviet-Kabul troops. The Mujahideen also attacked the positions of Soviet-Kabul troops in the outskirts of Kabul as a result of which heavy casualties were inflicted on the Soviet-Kabul troops. In retaliation to the Mujahideen attack the Soviet helicopters bombarded that area. (Dec. 22, 1987).

Radio Teheran:

Mujahideen attacked some power stations and destroyed heavy voltage supply towers in south-east of Kabul due to which a large area of Kabul was plunged into darkness. (Dec. 8, 1987).

BBC:

Radio Kabul says that police in the city has seized 20 kilograms of heroin and arrested 5 persons. The Radio adds that the heroin was brought to the Kalai Chapgar (ph) area by smugglers having links with counter-revolutionaries. (News-Pushto: Dec. 6, 1987).

Western diplomats in Islamabad report that encounters are taking place around Kabul these days. They say it is quite unusual that the Mujahideen have been keeping the level of fighting so high near Kabul especially in winter. (News-Urdu: Dec. 16, 1987).

Radio Australia:

Afghan security forces have arrested seven Muslim rebels who, they say, were preparing to launch an attack in the centre of the capital Kabul. The Soviet News Agency TASS says the Afghan army personnel had raided the heart of the city and collected 20 small rockets for terrorist attacks.

Muslims rebels, fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan regime have been coming closer to the capital in recent months. In November they launched a rocket attack at the Grand Assembly of the country's leaders. (News-English: Dec. 26, 1987).

Radio Kabul:

Another armed group comprising 20 people has ended their armed activities and joined national reconciliation policy in Qarabagh district of Kabul province. According to Bakhtar correspondent local people warmly welcomed them. The leader of the armed group Khair Gul announced full cooperation for the implementation of national reconciliation in their area. (News-Urdu: Dec. 9, 1987).

A plan of the counter-revolutionary elements to blow up a bridge in Saroobi Uluswali of Kabul province, on the Jalalabad-Kabul highway has been foiled.

According to the military correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency, the vigilant security posts discovered and defused 310 kilograms of explosives. (News-Pushto: Dec. 9, 1987).

The security forces prevented a criminal act on the part of extremists in a timely operation in Kabul Province. According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, 10 surface-to-surface missiles and other arms, which were stationed in the Arghandeh-ye Bala area of Paghman District and were planned to be fired on residential areas, were captured yesterday with the help of the local people. (News-Pushto: Dec. 13, 1987).

PARWAN

Muj Sources:

November 24: An armoured unit attacks Muj centre at Topa Dara near Charikar, provincial headquarter. The invaders were forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties.

December 2: Muj attack a security post near Charikar killing 3, including post commander.

Muj also fire on a mobile force hitting a tank.

December 3: Muj conduct a mortar attack on a security post in Sofian area. Several Kabuli soldiers killed.

December 21: Muj fire rockets and missiles on the Bagram airbase. Two aeroplanes destroyed on the runways. Twenty Soviet troops including 4 officers killed.

Radio Kabul:

A number of prisoners were released in Parwan Province yesterday in accordance with the amnesty decree issued by the President of the Republic of Afghanistan. The military correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency reports that a meeting was held in this connection in Charikar Uluswali at which one of the prisoners, on behalf of his companions, pledged to fully support the policy of national reconciliation and help the government in its implementation. (News-Pushto: Dec. 8, 1987).

A group of eight armed opponents formerly operating in the outskirts of Jablus Seraj Uluswali of Parwan province joined the process of national reconciliation today in response to the decisions taken by the Loya Jirga. (News-Pushto: Dec. 28, 1987).

KAPISA

Muj Sources:

November 7-12: More than 10 APCs were destroyed and over 50 SK soldiers were either killed or wounded in 5 days of fighting in Abdullah Burg area, about 6 km from Bagram airbase. The SK force was proceeding to the "centre of Kapisa" in order to carry supplies to isolated security posts. Soviet aircraft bombarded Muj positions.

LAGHMAN

Radio Kabul:

An armed anti-social group involved in looting is reported to have been smashed through a military operation in Qarghayee District of Laghman Province. The report adds that three persons were arrested on the spot and three machine guns were recovered from them. (News-Urdu: Dec. 22, 1987).

Meanwhile, an arms depot of the armed terrorists was wiped out in Qarghahi Ulaswali of Laghman Province, with the cooperation of the local people.

The security forces have also seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the depot. (News-Pushto: Dec. 23, 1987).

It is reported that a British citizen, Anderson (ph) who had apparently been preparing films for the BBC has been missing during an illegal visit to Afghanistan. According to the report, Anderson, who was working in an important military group has been killed by the so-called Hizb-e-Islami extremist group. This has been stated by the wife of the British citizen during an interview.

According to the report of a British organisation, Anderson alongwith film producing equipment entered Nooristan area of

Afghanistan from Pakistan on foot. The report adds that later Pakistani authorities arrested four persons of the so-called extremist group, Hizb-e-Islami. During investigations, western made films producing equipment was recovered from them. The organisation says that the dacoits have been searching out adventurers in the past and even killing them. (News-Urdu: Dec. 26, 1987).

LOGAR

Muj Sources:

November 25: A Russian force moving towards Gardez was attacked by a number of the Muj in the area of Surkhab. As a result tanks, APCs and other vehicles were destroyed alongwith a unit of BM-41. Several troops were killed or wounded.

November 30: Muj attacked the regime post in Sheikhak with ground-to-ground rockets. Seven regime supporters were killed.

December 1: Muj attacked regime posts around the Copper Mine in Ainak with ground-to-ground rockets and other heavy weapons. As a result, two posts were destroyed and nine enemy troops killed.

December 2: Mujahideen ambush a military convoy at Al-Taimur. It was believed to be carrying men and warlike material to Gardez from Kabul. A tank knocked out.

December 21: Fierce fighting continues on the highway connecting Kabul with Gardez through Logar. Muj have held up a military convoy near Pul-e-Alam. They have already destroyed two tanks and many trucks.

Radio Teheran:

The Mujahideen took a heavy toll of life in a raid on a military convoy of the Soviet-Afghan troops in Logar Province. (News-Urdu: Dec. 13, 1987).

WARDAK

Muj Sources:

November 19: Muj attack a military convoy in Chak area. A tank hit.

December 20: Soviet troops (possibly commandos) intercept a group of Mujahideen heading towards northern Afghanistan (probably with supplies for the freedom fighters). The Mujahideen were rescued by local partisan after a heavy but swift shoot out. The invaders were forced to flee back to the provincial headquarters, Koteasro.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul:

Given below are the major Kabul Radio themes in December 1987 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Criticising the Pakistan government that it is stockpiling arms and ammunition and fighting for the interests of US imperialism against the interest of people of Pakistan.
2. Highlighting Kabuls national reconciliation plan as a peace programme and the sole way of ending bloodshed in Afghanistan.
3. Criticising President Zia that he is rulling Pakistan illegally, not fullfilling his promise and insulting Islam as not introducing Islamic Shariah in Pakistan.
4. Allegation against Pakistan and US that they are prolonging war by intervention in Afghanistan.
5. Proclaiming that Islam is flourishing in Afghanistan as compared with Pakistan.

Radio Moscow:

Given below are the major Moscow media themes in December 1987 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Allegation of foreign intervention in Afghanistan by US and Pakistan to prolonging war.
2. Criticising Pakistan ambitions to acquire nuclear weapons and US military aid.
3. Highlighting that USSR wants to solve the Afghan conflict as early as possible by political means rather than military means.
4. Highlighting Kabuls national reconciliation plans and its contribution in restoring peace in Afghanistan.
5. Soviet Afghan Ties and its results in the shap of Afghan development and progress in economic political and cultural fields.

APPENDIX - 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN DECEMBER 1987 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

HUMAN LOSSES

Soviet Casualties	:	288	Killed	and	79	Wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	688	Killed	and	269	Wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	417	Killed	and	251	Wounded
Defections	:	1075	Kabul troops defected	and	1968	captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	293	Killed	and	293	Wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	331	Killed	and	127	Wounded

MATERIAL LOSSES

Soviet-Kabul Material losses :

Aircrafts	13	LMGs	20	Security Posts	67
Helicopters	10	HMGs	22	Bunkers	4
Tanks	94	Klashnikovs	557	PDPA	
APCs	89	Rockets		Establishments	3
HMVs	82	Launchers	53	Airport	
Trucks	55	Gas pipeline	1	Instalations	2
Jeeps	12	Doshaka	1	Army centre	7
Oil Tankers	20	Rifles	12	Shops	13
Wireless Sets	6	Oil Dept	2		
Heavy quantity of arms and ammunition destroyed :					10

Mujahideen Materil Losses :

Security posts captured by enemy	3
RL captured by enemy	1

APPENDIX - 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN DECEMBER 1987 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses inflicted to ("Counter-revolutionaries")

HUMAN LOSSES: Killed : 1665 Captured: 58

Ground of bandits wiped out: 17

RETURNEES 6500 (Those availing amnesty,
changing allegiance and
joining Soviet-Kabul
ranks.)

Members of armed groups surrendering : 1471

Prisoners released by Kabul regime : 3227

Material Losses:

Recoilless guns	8	With 60,000 shells
Horses	18	
Dshkh guns	32+1700	boxes of shells
Rocket launchers	16+21040	rockets
Explosives	210 KG	beside 5 sacksful
Munition depots	19	
Cartridges	5	quantities in thousands
Ground-to-ground missile	398	besides 17000 boxes with
12 "reactivator" unit		
LMGs	13	
Based/Hideouts	7	
Mortars	14	with 12025 shells
Missiles (S-S)	398	with 12 launching units
S-Air missilests	3	
Quantities of Arms and Ammunition	9	
Hand grenades	10	
Zikuyags	3	with 86000 shells
HMG's	33	with 50 boxes of shells
Food Depots	2	

LOSSES INFLICTED BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES

Human losses : 59 killed 71 wounded

Material Losses: 53 Houses and 12 shops damaged

APPENIX - 3

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN DECEMBER 1987
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capital	Engagements Inside City	Vicinity of City

Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	1	Zaranj	-	1
Hilmand	2	Lashkargarh	-	1
Qandahar	20	Qandahar	5	2
Zabul	1	Kalat Gilzai	-	-
Ghazni	4	Ghazni	1	-
Paktika	2	Sharna	-	-
Paktiya	77	Gardez	-	-
Ningarhar	43	Jalalabad	5	-
Kunar	14	Chagha Sarai	-	-
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	Faizabad	1	-
Takhar	6	Talogan	-	-
Kunduz	5	Kunduz	-	-
Baghlan	12	Baghlan	4	-
Samangan	2	Samangan	-	1
Balkh	13	Mazar Sharif	-	-
Jozjan	1	Shebergan	-	-
Faryab	22	Maimana	1	2
Badghis	2	Qala Nau	-	-
Bordering Iran				
Herat	18	Herat	-	5
Farah	5	Farah	1	1
(Nimruz)		(Zaranj)		
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	2	Bamiyan	1	1
Ghor	3	Chaghcharan	1	1
Uruzgan	-	Tarin Kot	-	-
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	32	Kabul	6	3
Parwan	9	Charikar	-	3
Kapisa	8	Mahmud-i-Raqi	-	-
Laghman	-	Mehtarlam	-	-
Logar	9	Pule Alam	-	-
Wardak	4	Koteasro	-	1

TOTAL	319		26	22

APPENDIX - 4

**MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS
IN DECEMBER 1987
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)**

	Mujahideen	Targets	Soviet-Kabul		Total
			Operations		
Provinces	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	

Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	1	-	-	-	1
Hilmand	1	-	1	-	2
Qandahar	4	12	2	2	20
Zabul	1	-	-	-	1
Ghazni	2	1	1	-	4
Paktika	2	-	-	-	2
Paktiya	13	5	40	19	77
Ningarhar	9	25	9	-	43
Kunar	1	4	6	3	14
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	-	1	1	-	2
Takhar	2	1	3	-	6
Kunduz	3	1	-	1	5
Baghlan	5	7	-	-	12
Samangan	-	2	-	-	2
Balkh	2	7	3	1	13
Jozjan	-	1	-	-	1
Faryab	5	3	11	3	22
Badghis	1	-	1	-	2
Bordering Iran					
Herat	4	13	1	-	18
Farah	1	4	-	-	5
(Nimruz)					
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	-	1	-	1	2
Ghor	1	-	-	2	3
Uruzgan	-	-	-	-	-
Kabul and Adjacent					
Kabul	7	19	-	6	32
Parwan	5	3	-	1	9
Kapisa	5	-	3	-	8
Laghman	-	-	-	-	-
Logar	4	3	-	2	9
Wardak	2	-	1	1	4

TOTAL	81	113	83	42	319

APPENDIX - 5

PROVINCE WISE MILITARY AND POLITICAL EVENTS
IN DECEMBER 1987
(Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Prisoners released	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered

Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	1	-	-	85	-
Hilmand	-	-	-	213	250
Qandahar	-	-	-	-	-
Zabul	-	-	-	25	-
Ghazni	-	-	38	-	-
Paktika	-	-	-	-	-
Paktiya	10	8	16	-	-
Ningarhar	1	-	191	630	-
Kunar	-	4	-	138	-
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	-	-	-	-	-
Takhar	-	-	15	-	-
Kunduz	3	3	-	62	-
Baghlan	-	-	15	-	-
Samangan	-	-	15	60	-
Balkh	-	-	227	-	75
Jozjan	-	-	-	-	-
Faryab	2	5	140	-	43
Badghis	-	-	50	-	-
Bordering Iran					
Herat	3	3	71	1658	975
Farah	-	-	59	-	-
(Nimruz)					
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	-	-	-	-	-
Ghor	-	-	-	-	-
Uruzgan	-	-	-	-	-
Kabul and Adjacent					
Kabul	2	-	2380	2641	120
Parwan	-	-	10	60	8
Kapisa	-	-	-	-	-
Laghman	3	-	-	928	-
Logar	-	-	-	-	-
Wardak	-	-	-	-	-

TOTAL	25	23	3227	6500	1471

APPENDIX - 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES
DECEMBER 1987 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

PROVINCES	LOCATION	CASU- ALTIES		HOUSES DESTROYED/ DAMAGED	HEADS OF LIVESTOCKS	DATE (1987)
		K	W			
Ghazni	Qarbagh	12	-	-	-	2/12
Paktiya	Shabak Khel	45	64	-	-	30/12
Ningarhar	Achin+Koshtal	30	40	-	10	5/12
"	Darunta	30	-	-	-	5/12
Kunar	Narang	-	-	10	-	19/11
"	Barikot	150	-	40	-	11/12
Badakhshan	Faizabad	5	5	-	-	13/12
Takhar	Chahab	-	7	-	-	4/11
Kunduz	Imam Sahib	-	-	8	10	11/11
"	Raj Guzar	-	-	30	-	3/12
Baghlan	Pule Khumri	3	-	-	-	15/12
Balkh	Baghshor (Daulatabad)	8	-	20	40	8/12
Faryab	Khayaban-e-	50	5	-	-	27/11
"	Herat Town Darhamd	-	10	-	-	8/12
TOTAL 14 INCIDENTS IN 10 PROVINCES		331	131	108	60	

BESIDES

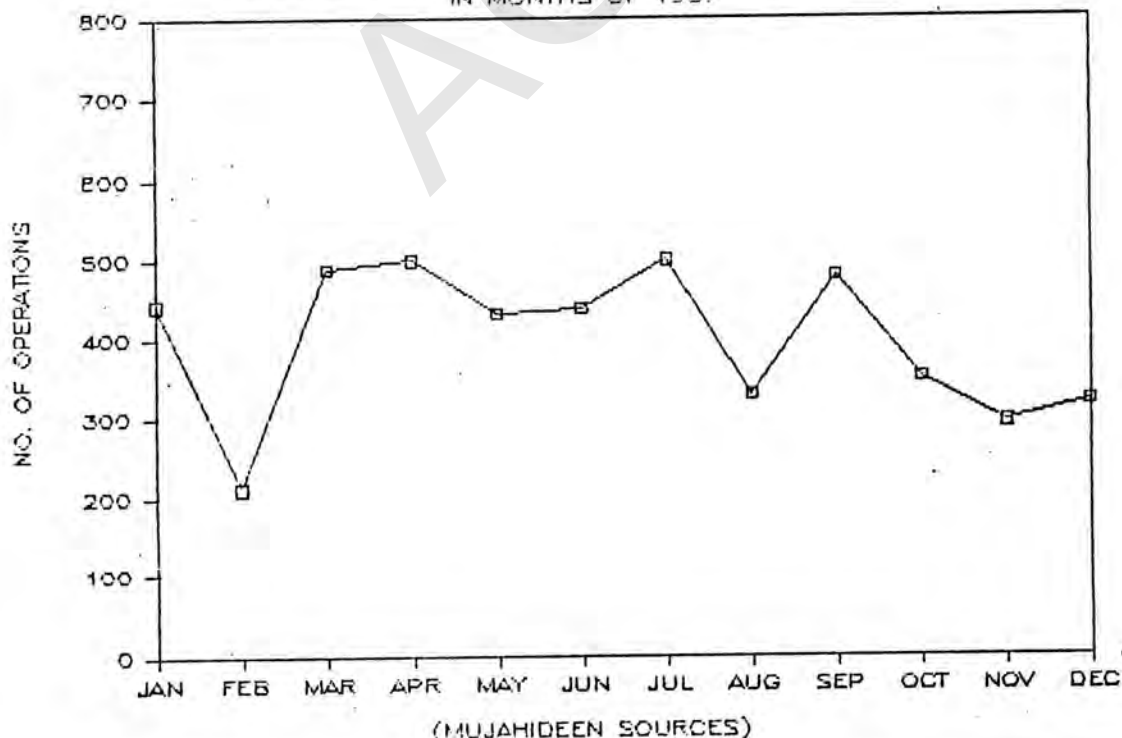
1. On December 5, the villages of Pekhaya Khawar, Kahi, Gotu, Achin and Kohtal in Ningarhar were bombarded by enemy aircraft and destroyed.
2. On the same date in retaliation to an attack by Mujahideen the Russian forces bombarded five civilian vehicles, killing 30 passengers in Darunta.
3. On November 11, Kabuli troops arrested hundreds of civilians in Imam Sahib, Kunduz province and then sent to military services.

APPENDIX - 7

TOTAL MILITARY OPERATIONS COMPARATIVE DATA WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS

Month	Mujahideen Operations	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Total Engagements
December 1987	194	125	319
November 1987	187	106	293
October 1987	238	112	350
September 1987	288	189	477
August 1987	236	94	330
July 1987	287	211	498
June 1987	193	244	437
May 1987	335	96	431
April 1987	300	198	498
March 1987	339	149	488
February 1987	177	35	212
January 1987	309	133	442
TOTAL IN 12 MONTHS	3083	1692	4776

TOTAL MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MONTHS OF 1987



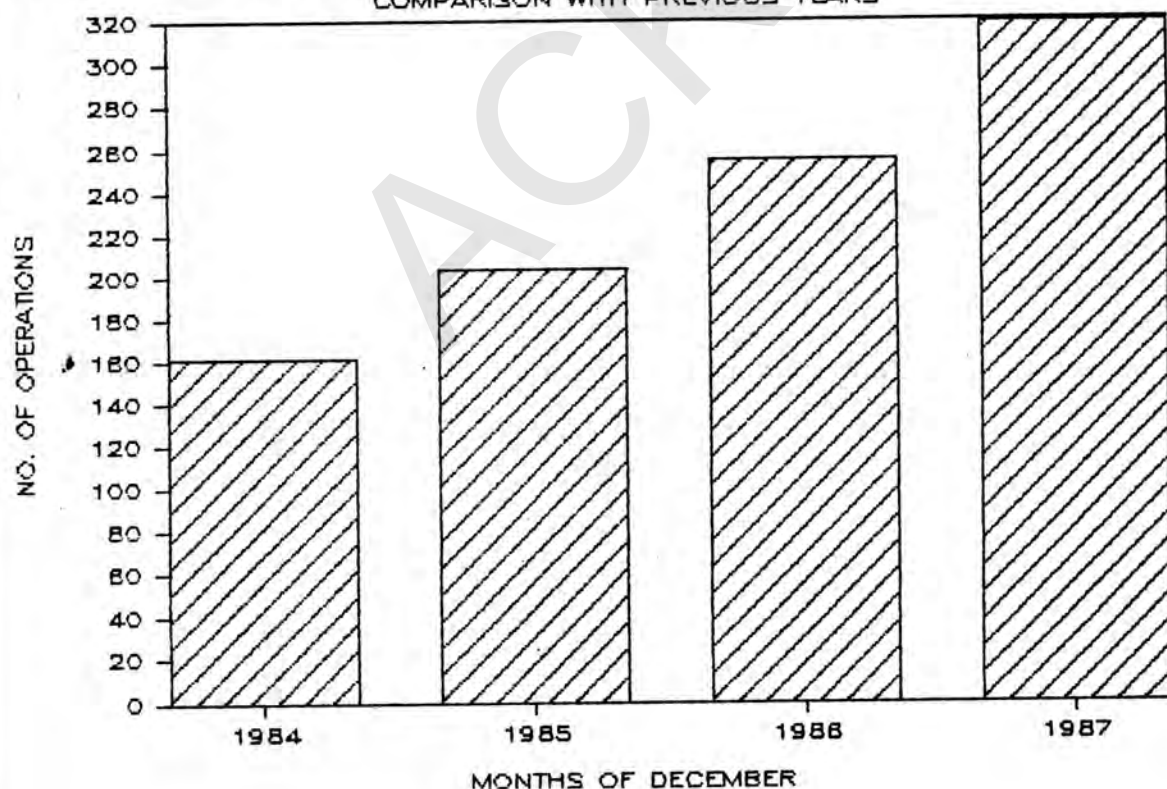
APPENDIX - B

COMPARATIVE DATA WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Month		Mujahideen Operations	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Total Engagements
December	1987	194	125	319
December	1986	207	48	255
December	1985	148	55	203
December	1984	112	49	161

TOTAL MILITARY OPERATIONS IN DECEMBER

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS



APPENDIX - 9

TOTAL MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Month-wise comparision for 1984-87

Month	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	150	253	273	442
February	100	241	304	212
March	100	210	331	488
April	123	157	408	498
May	172	206	245	431
June	169	182	397	437
July	258	173	445	498
August	257	212	307	329
September	177	210	376	477
October	209	261	403	350
November	173	241	404	293
December	161	203	255	319
TOTAL	2049	2549	4148	4774

APPENDIX - 10

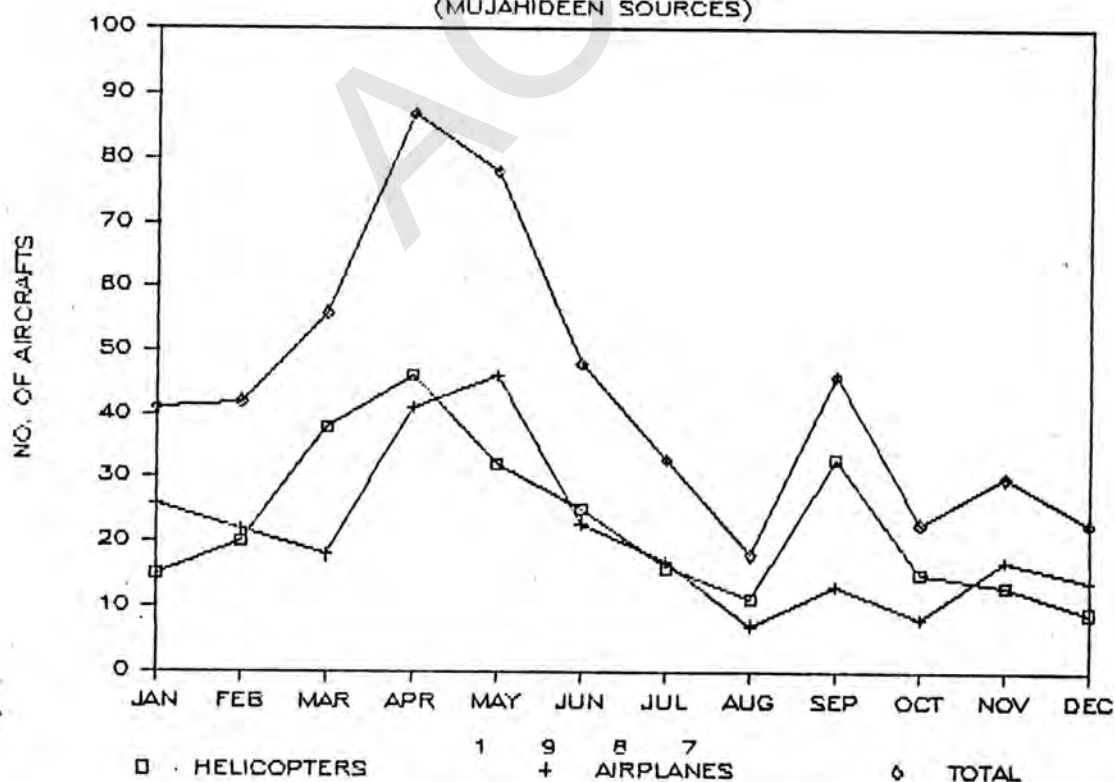
SOVIET KABUL AIRLOSSES IN 1987

Month wise breakdown

Month	Helicopter	Airplanes	Total aircraft
December 1987	9	14	23
November 1987	13	17	30
October "	15	8	23
September "	33	13	46
August "	11	7	18
July "	16	17	33
June "	25	23	48
May "	31	40	71
April "	46	41	87
March "	38	18	56
February "	20	22	42
January "	15	26	41
TOTAL IN 12 MONTHS	273	252	518

AIR LOSSES

(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)



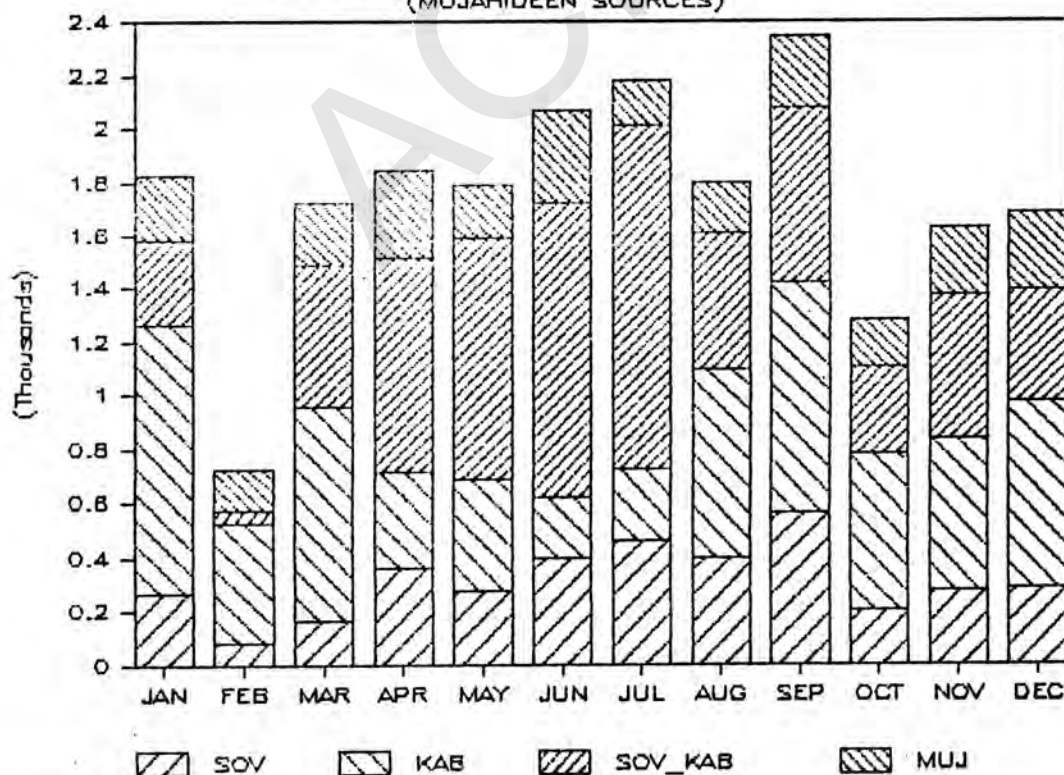
APPENDIX - 11

HUMAN LOSSES IN 1987

Month	Soviet Troops Killed	Kabuli Troops Killed	Soviet-Kabul Unidentifiable Killed	Mujahideen Killed
December	288	688	417	293
November	280	558	541	250
October	203	574	326	184
September	569	855	652	275
August	401	701	505	190
July	464	256	1296	165
June	395	231	1100	340
May	280	407	903	196
April	356	357	804	331
March	167	787	534	234
February	77	156	39	156
January	266	1003	318	243
TOTAL IN 12 MONTHS	3746	6873	7427	3857

HUMAN LOSSES IN 1987

(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)



APPENDIX - 12

**VIOLATIONS OF PAKISTAN GROUND TERRITORIES BY
SOVIET KABUL ARTILLERY IN DECEMBER 1987**

DATE (1987)	LOCATIONS	CASU- ALTIES		NO.OF SHELLS FIRED	SOURCE
		K	W		
1/12	Khyber Agency	-	1	22	MLM
22/12	Bajaur Agency	1	-	14	"
5/12	Shilman (Khyber Agency)	7	-	100	N.Waqt
7/12	Landi Kotal	1	25	6	FP (VOA)
8/12	Bajaur Agency	-	3	-	MLM, FP
15/12	Landi Kotal	-	10	-	R.Teheran
16/12	Kurram Agency	-	2	-	"
TOTAL 7 INCIDENTS		9	41	142	

COMPARATIVE DATA WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS

Month	Violation/Incidents	Killed	Wounded
December 1987	7 incidents	9	41
November 1987	7 incidents	2	3
October 1987	9 incidents	8	47
September 1987	4 incidents	-	16
August 1987	6 incidents	2	5
July 1987	6 incidents	7	5
June 1987	13 incidents	15	40
TOTAL	52 incidents	43	157

APPENDIX - 13

**VIOLATIONS OF PAKISTAN'S AIRSPACE BY SOVIET KABUL AIRCRAFT
DECEMBER 1987 (As per Pakistani Press Reports)**

DATE (1987)	LOCATIONS	NO. OF AIR CRAFT	NO. OF BOMBS	CASUALTIES K	W	SOURCE
7/12	Landi Kotal	2	10	1	-	N.Waqt
"	Chitral	2	-	-	-	"
"	" "	2	-	-	-	"
"	" "	2	-	-	-	"
"	Khyber Agency	5	10	1	30	"
8/12	Bajaur Agency	4	-	-	-	MLM
10/12	Chitral	6	8	-	-	N.Waqt
"	Khyber Agency	5	9	-	-	"
13/12	Kurram Agency	2	3	-	-	FP
14/12	" "	2	5	-	-	N.Waqt
15/12	Miran Shah	4	8	-	-	FP
15/12	" "	4	4	-	-	FP, MLM
16/12	Kurram Agency	1	-	-	-	R.Teheran
TOTAL 13 INCIDENTS		41	57	2	31	

COMPARATIVE DATA WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS

Months		Incidents	Casualties	
			Killed	Wounded
December	1987	13	2	31
November	1987	10	12	36
October	1987	3	-	1
September	1987	1	5	15
August	1987	None	None	None
July	1987	3	5	-
June	1987	3	-	5
May	1987	2	2	1
April	1987	8	4	27
March	1987	17	197	381
TOTAL IN 10 MONTHS		60	227	497

APPENDIX - 14

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN IN DECEMBER 1987

DATE (1987)	NO. OF EXPLO- DED	BOMBS SEIZED	CASUALTIES K	W	CULPRITS ARRESTED	LOCATIONS	SOURCE
2/12	1	-	1	12	1	Peshawar	DN, FP N.Waqt
5/12	1	-	-	-	-	"	N.Waqt
7/12	-	1 KG	-	-	-	"	"
16/12	-	1 KG	-	-	-	"	"
19/12	-	20KG	-	-	1	"	R. Tharan
"	-	5	-	-	-	"	N.Waqt
20/12	-	-	-	-	5	"	"
21/12	-	1 (250 pound)	-	-	-	Hyderabad	DN
22/12	-	1 30KG-	-	-	-	Peshawar	PT
23/12	-	5	-	-	5	"	NTN
26/12	3	-	1	2	-	Parachinar	"
"	1	3	1	38	-	Islamabad	MLM
31/12	-	4	-	-	1	Peshawar	FP
TOTAL 14 INCIDENTS	6	36	3	52	13		

Islamabad	2	Sind	1	NWFP	10	Baluchistan	1
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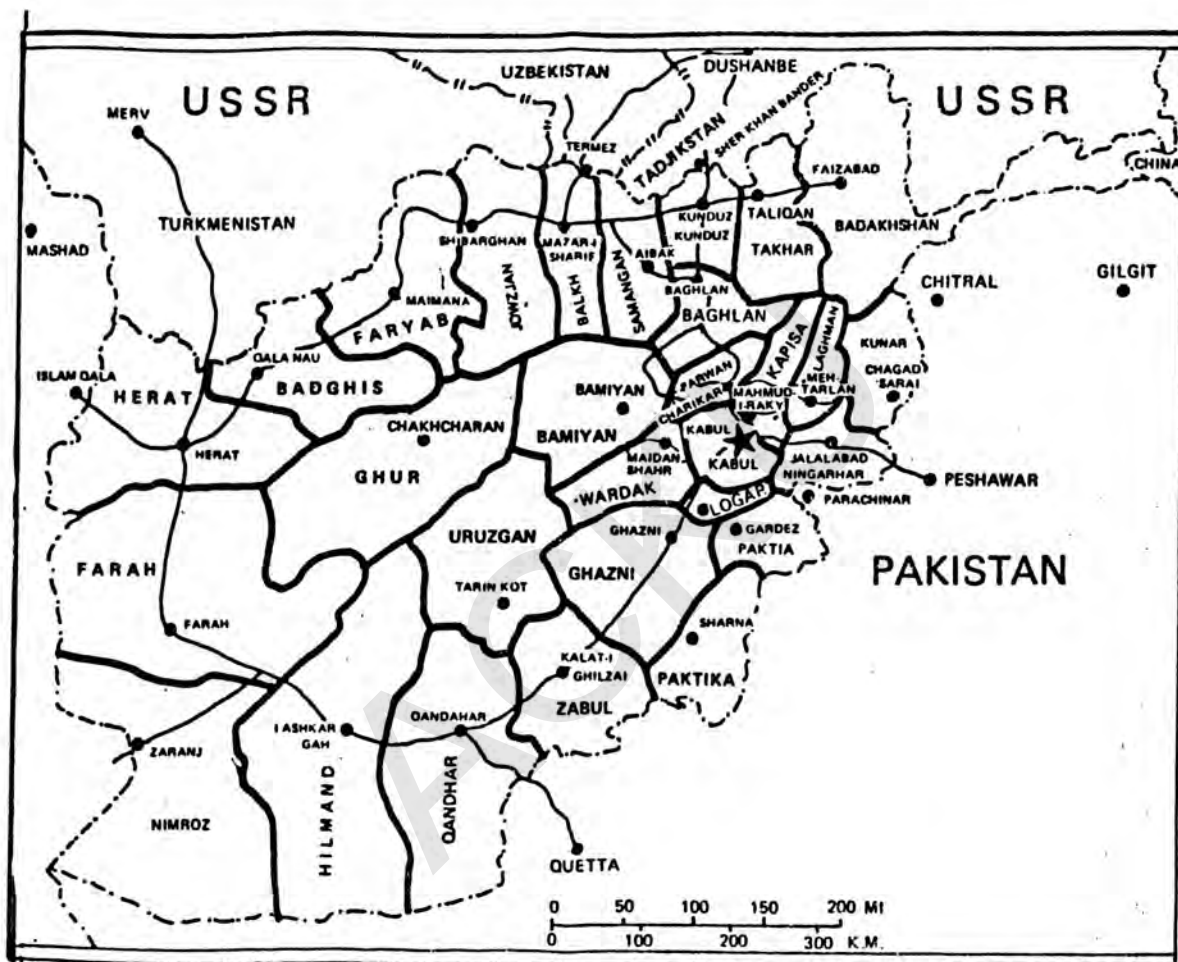
COMPARATIVE DATA WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS

Month		Total Incident	Casualties	
			Killed	Wounded
December	1987	14	3	52
November	1987	23	8	108
October	1987	34	16	100
September	1987	33	38	157
August	1987	18	25	153
July	1987	33	84	252
June	1987	26	7	49
May	1987	15	15	76
April	1987	10	20	72
March	1987	11	2	9
February	1987	18	22	12
January	1987	24	24	29
TOTAL IN 12 MONTHS		259	264	1069

APPENDIX - 15

(Map of Afghanistan)

Total provinces = 29



Mujahideen Sources:

Conflict reported during December 1987 in 27 Provinces.
Provinces from where no war report received : Uruzgan
and Laghman.

Radio Kabul:

Conflict reported during December 1987 in 9 provinces
These Provinces are: Hilmand, Paktiya, Ningarhar,
Kunar, Kunduz, Faryab, Herat, Kabul and Laghman.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts and Kabul New Times. Major Mujahideen sources included Al Bunyan News Service, and information received from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during December 1-31, 1987. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate November 1987 incidents reported in December 1987.

II. THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIOCULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1. MESSAGES, VISITS AND MEETINGS

Messages

Messages on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries and organizations: Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, DPR of Yemen, DPRK, Ethiopia, Great Britain, GDR, Hungary, Iraq, Kampuchea, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, PLO, Romania, UNO, USSR and Yugoslavia.

Message was sent by Najibullah to Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU CC congratulating him on the conclusion of INF treaty. Message reads "on behalf of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan, I express my sincere congratulations for the great progress scored with the conclusion of the treaty on the elimination of intermediate and short range missiles as well as on your successful and significant visit to the United States of America (KNT, 19 December).

Dr. Najibullah sent a message to President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq while over flying Pakistan airspace. In his message Najib expressed his good wishes for the people and President of Pakistan. He also expressed his wish for the strengthening of relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Afghanistan (Radio Kabul, 24 December).

Najibullah President of the Republic of Afghanistan met on December 7, Nguyen Thi Dinh, Vice Chairperson of State Council and President of Women's Union of Socialist Republic of Vietnam (KNT, 8 December).

The President of Republic of Afghanistan Dr. Najibullah held a meeting with member of Central Committee of Yemen Socialist Party and Secretary of Working Committee of YSP, Sheikh Ali Omer in Kabul on December 9, 1987. During the meetings views were exchanged on matters of bilateral interest and expanding cooperation between Afghanistan Democratic Khalq Party and Yemen Socialist Party (Radio Kabul, 10 December).

Afghanistan's President Dr. Najib who arrived in New Delhi on December 24 on a transit visit, had a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that they discussed matters of bilateral and regional interest including the situation in Afghanistan. Dr. Najib is accompanied by his Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil (AIR, 24 December).

Talks were held on December 27 in Hanoi between esteemed Najibullah and comrade Nguyen Van Linh. Further development and consolidation of relations of the two countries as well as international and regional problems of mutual interest were the main subjects of discussion (KNT, 28 December 1987).

2. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Politburo of the CC of PDPA, met on December 12 and reviewed the setting up of a coalition administration in localities. The Politburo said that the policy of NR has prepared vast ground for expansion and successful consolidation of people's power and elections to local organs of state power and administration. Assessing the work of some party committees and state organs as weak the Politburo entrusted a commission to review the tasks of concerned organs on establishing coalition administration in localities and organize their implementation. The Politburo set specific tasks before party organizations and committees and emphasized that these organizations and committees should accelerate political publicity in localities in favour of people's power through peaceful means (KNT, 13 December).

National Reconciliation

The National Reconciliation is gaining momentum in Afghanistan a TASS Correspondent reports from Kabul. As a number of regions have been declared zones of peace, units of the limited Soviet army contingent have been withdrawn from the provinces of Nimroze, Farah, Laghman, Ghour, Bamian, Oruzgan and the district of Khost. One important plan to normalise the situation in Afghanistan and clear the way for an early withdrawal of Soviet troops, is the formation of a coalition government, the reunification of interference in the Republic's affairs and guarantees against-repeated meddling (Radio Moscow, 6 December).

184 representatives of armed opposition groups who have joined the NR process were elected as people's deputies to local organs of state power and administration in Kunduz province. A spokesman of the provincial party committee of Kunduz said that 899 deputies have so far been elected to the local bodies of state power and administration in 255 villages, 122 communities and 17 administrative units of the province. 49 representatives of armed opposition groups who have joined NR were elected as chairman and secretaries of local councils (KNT, 1 December).

Najibullah Proposes a Peace Plan

Following is the summary of the text of Najibullah's speech delivered at the Loya Jirga, after his election as President of the Republic of Afghanistan on November 30, 1987. He said that "the 12 months term for the withdrawal can be reduced, provided the leaders of the 'seven party alliance' would reciprocally pledge to accept cease fire in response to the extension of our cease fire for another six months and guarantee non-resumption of combat operations in future. Moreover, it is known that at present the Soviet troops are not stationed in 13 provinces of Afghanistan. The government is ready to immediately expand this process to the rest of the provinces of the country. If Ahmad Shah Masoud, Bashir Dawlatzai in Baghlan, Mullah Malang in Qandahar, Mullah Nasim in Hilmand, Turan Ismail in Herat, Syed Jagran in Ghazni, Farid in Badakhshan and others sincerely put forth, as the main reason of their armed struggle, the presence of the Soviet troops, and believe this to be the main obstacle for the establishment of peace in the country. I, as President, on behalf of the Loya Jirga which elected me, officially propose to remove this obstacle through an agreement reached on the following basis:

- In response to the extension of the cease fire by the state for another six months, during this period, they should also refrain from their combat activities, give necessary guarantees in this regard and express their view regarding the future of Afghanistan and the ways leading to the establishment of peace in the country.
- If they pledge to observe peace conditions the Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan, in accordance with the short-term timeframe agreed upon. The Soviet troops would be withdrawn and would return to their peace-loving country, first of all from those provinces where

commitments would be made for observing peace and combat activities ceased. We sincerely urge the noble residents of different provinces of our beloved homeland, elders, clergymen and intellectuals to make peace in the name of homeland, in the name of every thing that is dear and sacred for the people of Afghanistan, organize Jirga's and peace missions and put an end to the fratricidal war. The Soviet contingent shall leave those provinces which carry out such peaceful measures and present firm guarantees of ensuring security and prevent provocations from abroad.

I am ready to discuss once again the concrete programme of agreement with the opposition. As President, I am ready to negotiate with every leader of the opposition for analysing the acute problems of the cessation of war and establishment of peace in the country. Such a meeting can be held not only in Afghanistan. Our common steps towards each other and agreements on the formation of the coalition government, the solution of the problems of the country through political means and the cessation of military operations will become available for the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. That is how we understand our internationalist duty towards our good neighbour, the Soviet Union.

As the leader of the State of Afghanistan, from this high rostrum, I reiterate once again the guarantees given to the opposite side.

- The extension of cease fire till Saratan 29, 1367 HS (July 15, 1988) i.e. for another six months.
- Friendly cooperation with all political forces which want peace and show readiness for honest cooperation with us.
- Peace dialogue and searching for ways of national accord.
- The formation of coalition government and organs of coalition administration in localities.
- Open and democratic election to the National Assembly of the country.
- Assistance to and defence of those who have returned home and resumed their peaceful life.

The scope of these guarantees can be expanded, we are ready to consider the proposals of the opposite side (KNT, 3 December).

Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq proposed the establishment of a coalition government on December 1 in an interview with the Wall Street Journal newspaper. He suggested it could be comprised of the Mujahideen, Afghan refugees and the current government. But alliance leader Mohammad Younus Khalis said that there could be no compromise with the communist government. He said that the rebels will continue the fight to establish an Islamic government (VOA, 7 December).

No Peace Keeping Force Needed

President Najib of Afghanistan has ruled out any suggestion of a United Nations Peace Keeping Force being stationed in his country to oversee the eventual withdrawal of Soviet forces. In a news conference with Western Correspondents Dr. Najib said, there was no question of replacing one force with another the main problem he said was the issue of foreign interference in Afghanistan. If guarantees were given in the next round of the UN talks in Geneva, there will be no need the UN or any other force. Without foreign assistance, he explained the rebels will not be able to wage war and the Afghan Armed Forces will be capable of ensuring security. The Soviet Forces were not involved in the war, he said but were engaged only in transporting supplies and protecting the country's airports and roads (BBC, 1 December).

UN Efforts for Geneva Talks

The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy Mr. Diego Cordovez had held talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow in connection with the timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The talks took place following the Gorbachev-Reagan summit meeting as the Afghan issue was also discussed during the summit. Some Soviet officials have said that they will have no objection, if the indirect Geneva talks are resumed even before the fixed time. However, they say that the next round should be the final one. Prior to next round of the indirect Geneva talks the alliance leader of Afghan Mujahideen Mohammad Younus Khalis has announced that he is now ready to meet Mr. Diego Cordovez in connection with the solution of Afghan problems (VOG, 18 December).

At a meeting held between the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the UN Secretary General, Mr. Diego Cordovez in Moscow on December 15. The question of an early political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan was considered. The prospects for the success of the next round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva were also discussed. Mr. Shevardnadze underlined the willingness of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in making the mission of Cordovez a success (Radio Moscow, 16 December).

New Constitution

*The new constitution underlines the functioning of Loya Jirga, President, National Assembly and the Council of Ministers:

CHAPTER FOUR - LOYA JIRGA

Article 65:-

The Loya Jirga, is the biggest manifestation of the will of the people of Afghanistan in accordance with national historical traditions.

The Loya Jirga consists of:

1. Members of the National Assembly.
2. Ten people's deputies from each province and its equivalent.
3. Governors of provinces and mayor of Kabul.
4. Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Members of the Council of Ministers.
5. Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justices and Judges of the Supreme Court.
6. Attorney General and his Deputies.
7. Chairman and members of the Constitution council.
8. Members of the Executive Board of the National Front.
9. A maximum of fifty persons from among prominent scientific, social and spiritual figures to be appointed by the President on the basis of the recommendations of secretariat of the National Front.

CHAPTER FIVE - THE PRESIDENT

The President shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Loya Jirga for a term of seven years. No person can be elected as President for more than two terms. The President is acceptable and shall report to Loya Jirga. The Loya Jirga shall be called to elect a new President thirty days before the end of the term of office of the outgoing President.

Article 75:-

The President shall enjoy the following powers in addition to those entrusted to him by other provisions of the Constitution:

1. Supreme command of the armed forces.
2. To sign laws and resolutions of the National Assembly.
3. To appoint the Prime Minister designate to form the government.
4. To approve the head and members of the National Assembly and to accept their resignations.
5. To convene and preside over the Council of Ministers when necessary.
6. To approve the appointment, promotion and pension of judges, high ranking officials and officers of the armed forces, according to the provisions of the law.
7. Take decisions on ascertaining public opinion or holding referendum on major political, social and economic issues.
8. Pardon and remit sentences.
9. Accredite the heads of diplomatic missions of the Republic of Afghanistan to foreign countries and international organizations.
10. Accept the credentials of the heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states to the Republic of Afghanistan.

11. Proclaim a state of emergency, general and partial mobilisation and their termination.
12. Declare war and armistice with the consent of Loya Jirga.
13. Authorize the issue of money.
14. Grant citizenship and asylum, in accordance with the law.
15. Grant honorary orders, medals and titles as per the law.
16. Exercise other powers in accordance with the law.

CHAPTER SIX - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 77:-

The National Assembly is the highest legislative organ of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 78:-

The National Assembly consists of two houses: House of Representatives and Senate.

Article 79:-

The members of the House of Representatives shall be elected from electoral constituencies having equal population for a legislative term of five years.

Members of Senate (senators) are elected and appointed in the following manner:

1. Two persons from each province and equivalent units for a period of five years.
2. Two persons from among the members of each provincial council and its equivalent elected by the council for a term of three years.
3. The remaining one third of the members shall be appointed for a period of three years by the President from amongst well informed, scholarly, prestigious and national figures.

Article 80:-

The number, conditions, procedure of election and appointment of the members of the National Assembly shall be regulated by law.

Article 81:-

In addition to other powers prescribed in this constitution, the National Assembly shall enjoy the following powers:

1. To approve, amend and repeal laws and legislative decrees and to present them to the President for signature.
2. To interpret laws.
3. To ratify and annul international treaties.
4. To approve socio-economic development plans and endorse the government's report on their execution.
5. To approve the state budget and evaluate the report on its execution.
6. To establish administrative units and make changes in them.
7. To establish and abolish ministers and central organs equivalent to them.
8. To decide on the appointment and removal of Vice President on the basis of recommendation and request of the President.
9. To authorize the state to receive loans and grant privileges of substantial importance to national economy including monopoly.
10. To institute by law honorary orders, medals and titles.
11. To endorse establishment of relations with foreign countries and international organizations.
12. To elicit replies from the Prime Minister and other members of government concerning performance relating to their authority during interpellations session.

CHAPTER SEVEN - COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Article 100:-

The Council of Ministers (government) is the highest executive and administrative organ of state power in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Council of Ministers is composed of:

- Prime Minister
- Deputy Prime Ministers
- Ministers, Presidents of Central Organs equivalent to Ministries.

Article 103:-

The Council of Ministers has the following duties and powers:

1. Formulate and implement the domestic and foreign policies.
2. Ensure execution of the matters relating to national economy; formulate the socio-economic development plans, prepare the state budget, implement plans and budget and report to the National Assembly on their execution.
3. Take measures for defending the interests of the state, protect all forms of legal properties, ensure public order and security and safeguard the rights and freedoms of the citizens.
4. Overall guidance of foreign relations, establishment of diplomatic ties and conclusion of agreements with foreign states and international organizations according to law.
5. Create offices and organs related to the Council of Ministers.
6. Other powers according to provisions of law.

The council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan approves regulations, rules and other legal documents in the jurisdiction of its powers.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN - THE MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 146:-

On the enactment of this constitution and the election of the President, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council shall become dissolved.

The Revolutionary Council shall carry on its duties till the National Assembly is constituted and shall enjoy the powers enshrined in Chapter six of the constitution. The National Assembly shall be constituted within six months following the enactment of the Constitution.

The Council of Ministers enjoying the powers described under Chapter seven of the Constitution shall carry on its duties till a new government is formed and wins the vote of confidence of the House of Representatives as per the provisions of the Constitution.

Following the enactment of this constitution, the President shall within a period of six months, reorganise the judiciary and attorney organs on the basis of a unified system in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and establish the Constitution Council (KNT, December 2).

Afghan Resistance

Afghan Mujahideen leader, Maulvi Mohammad Yunus Khalis has said that the only way to peacefully solve the Afghanistan question is direct talks between Mujahideen and the Soviet Union. Mujahideen Leader rejected the possibility of any reconciliation with the pro-Soviet regime of Kabul. He said that the UN sponsored efforts for peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue would yield no result. Maulvi Khalis said any progress towards a solution could only be made through direct talks between the Soviet Union and Mujahideen. He said that in their meetings, the US and Soviet leaders may exchange views on Afghanistan issue but he added, if an agreement on the issue was reached between the two leaders, its implementation would not be a binding on the Afghan people. He rejected Najibullah's offer of talks describing him as an ordinary soldier of the Soviet occupying force and did not represent the Afghan people. Maulvi Khalis said traditionally, the Loya Jirga was legislative institution but the Jirga called by Najibullah was a futile exercise. He said the Afghan people had no confidence in such a flattering Assembly (VOA, 2 December).

The Islamic Unity Council of Afghanistan comprising eight revolutionary groups and organizations, has rejected the decisions made by the Loya Jirga. In a statement issued by the council condemned the meetings and gatherings in which no representative of Afghan Muslims was invited and said that the Mujahideen cannot be betrayed through such conspiracies. The council said that the Mujahideen would continue their struggle until expulsion of aggressors from their country and establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan (Radio Tehera, 3 December).

Afghan Resistance Leader, Maulvi Khalis told XINHUA that eight year old war indicates that the Afghan people can never be subdued by the Russian military forces. He stressed that the Afghan resistance forces will never lay down arms so long as the Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan. On the political settlement of the Afghan issue, Khalis said that Moscow is not sincere in settling the issue politically. Khalis reiterated that resistance forces will strive to set up a nonaligned Islamic government in Afghanistan (Radio Beijing, 26 December).

The Jamiat-e-Islami of Afghanistan has condemned the two day session of the Loya Jirga of the Kabul regime. In a statement the Jamiat said that every kind of elections held by the Kabul regime in that country are aspirations of the big powers in Afghanistan. The report says that all other groups of the Afghanistan people have also condemned the Loya Jirga of the Kabul regime (Radio Teheran, 30 November).

3. NATIONALITIES POLICY

Meetings

President Najibullah received on Thursday, December 7, the participants of the Jirga of the elders, Chieftains and Representatives of Zadran (near Khost) in Kabul. He discussed with them the problems of Khost division. Minister of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Mr. Sulaman Laeeq was also present on the occasion. Najib also received the same day a number of elders of Qandahar province who participated as delegates in the recent Loya Jirga. Problems of the people of Qandahar were discussed and President Najib gave instructions to the concerned authorities for their solution. Another delegation comprised of elders and chieftains of Ake Khel tribe of Paktia province called on Najib on December 3, 1987, the delegation informed Najib about their regional problems (KNT, 6 December).

Dr. Najibullah received a delegation of the representatives of the people of Kunduz province on December 19. The representatives submitted their demands and proposals about the local problems of Kunduz province, which the President heard and issued orders to the concerned departments to solve their problems (Radio Kabul, 20 December).

Prisoners Freed

During the month of December different sources of Kabul government have claimed that under the presidential decree of general amnesty a total of 6030 prisoners were released from Ningarhar, Kabul, Kunar, Herat, Balkh, Baghlan, Jozjan, Farah, Faryab, Hilmand, Ghazni, Takhar, Samangan, Badghis and Nimruz provinces.

In Afghanistan Mujahideen attacked on a city close to the Soviet border has freed 1400 prisoners. Mujahideen sources in Peshawar say that the prisoners released by them also included 80 women prisoners (VOA, 14 December).

Hundreds of prisoners released from jail by the Afghan government in general amnesty were drafted straight into the armed forces. Friends and relatives have been queuing up to read the lists posted outside an army recruitment centre in northern Kabul which show the names and military assignments of newly released prisoners. Prisoners were not allowed to meet their families before being drafted. Most of them have been assigned to military units now involved in heavy fighting around the besieged garrison of Khost, near the Pakistan border. The drafting of released prisoners, many of whom are likely to defect, at the first opportunity, is a further indication of the problems the regime faces in trying to build up an army able to defeat the guerillas without Soviet military support (BBC, 16 December).

Religion

The national session of the heads and members of the high council of Ulema and clergymen and provincial council of Ulema and clergymen of the Republic of Afghanistan was held on December 22 in Kabul. This was aimed at to underline the role and duties of high council of Ulema and clergymen in the realization of national reconciliation policy and to support the resolutions and decisions of Loya Jirga (KNT, 23 December).

Over 7,600 clergymen have returned home with their families following the proclamation of the NR policy. During this period, over 1,000 Ulema and clergymen have become members of the High Council of Ulema and Clergymen and rendered great services in the implementation of NR policy. The inclusion of Ulema in the local councils has been raised by 14 percent. About 900 Ulema and religious scholars have become members of NR commissions and 122 other are employed in organs under the High Council of Ulema and Clergymen (KNT, 27 December).

Fetva of Ulema and Religious Elders

Below is the 'Fetva' issued by the religious session of Ulema of free tribes held in Kabul.

- We approve the domestic and foreign policies of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. For these policies are in consonance with the tenets and principles of the sacred religion of Islam and are for establishing peace and security.
- Proclamation of national reconciliation in Afghanistan is also in conformity with the directives of Allah and on the basis of principles of Islam. It is backed by us the Ulema. And any one who does not accept this peace and national reconciliation is, in fact, refraining from the explicit order of Allah the Almighty. We urge our emigrant brothers to obey the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, and get united as per the Islamic brotherhood..
- We deem it our religious mission to convey the peaceable voice of the state of Afghanistan to free tribes. Afghan emigrants Pashtoon and Baluch brothers. Muslim people of Pakistan and all peoples of the world.
- All religious Ulema of free tribes are of the opinion that US imperialism is hostile to Muslims living in every corner of our world because of its ominous objectives. For instance, it provokes Israel against the Arab Muslims and gives every type of assistance to it. And it was this aid which enabled Israel to grasp from Palestinian people the Jerusalem, the first sanctuary of Muslims. It also continues its aggression against Lebanon. Libya and other Arab countries, and fans the war between the Muslims of Iran and Iraq.

- Therefore, we strongly condemn this anti-Islamic and inhuman policy of US imperialism. Success comes from Allah (KNT, 21 December).

Messages of Religious Scholars to Reagan and Gorbachev

The Supreme Council of the Religious Scholars of Afghanistan has sent a message to the American President Reagan and has sought help of the US for success of the process of NR programme and maintenance of peace in Afghanistan. The message says that the people of Afghanistan have been implicated in the undeclared war and are killing one another. The message appeal President Reagan to help maintain peace in Afghanistan, by fulfilling humanitarian and moral obligations (Radio Kabul, 22 December).

The Supreme Council of Muslim Clergymen and Scholars has urged Mikhail Gorbachev to continue working to stop the bloodshed on Afghan soil. In an appeal to the Soviet leader adopted at the Council's general meeting on Monday, the religious figures described the Soviet Union's assistance as an important factor of implementing the policy of NR in Afghanistan proclaimed by the popular government. The Supreme Council of clergymen and scholars has also sent a message to President Reagan urging him to stop arms deliveries and material aid to the extremists and thereby help restore peace in Afghanistan (Radio Moscow, 22 December).

4. ECONOMY

President Najibullah, addressed local and foreign journalists at a press conference in Kabul on December 1, 1987. Replying to a question on foreign assistance Najib said that the foreign assistance that Afghanistan receives for socio-economic development plans totals 220 million US dollars or 11 billion Afghanis. The share of the Soviet Union is 80 percent and USSR also renders to Afghanistan gratis aid amounting to billion of Afghanis annually (KNT, 5 December).

A regular session of the permanent commission of the RC on socio-economic and cultural affairs was held at Gulkhana palace presidential headquarters. The session evaluated the report of the Ministry of Mines and Industries on implementation of cement production plan in 1988 and the first half of 1987. The session assessed the proposal of the

trade unions of Afghanistan which was formulated according to the resolution of the commission dealt October 30, 1987 for establishment of coupon outlets with sufficient essential goods needed by the employees. After a detailed discussion the session approved the proposal (KNT, 27 December).

Projects

Soviet Union has assisted Afghan people in more than two hundred development schemes about 100 of which have been completed. According to BIA reports, 45 percent of the gross national production is coming from these projects constructed with the Soviet assistance. Only during 1986, the Soviet Union provided food and consumer goods worth one billion Afghanis free of cost (Radio Kabul, 6 December).

Protocols Signed

A protocol on Soviet economic assistance to Afghan private entrepreneurs has been signed in Afghanistan. Under the protocol the USSR will help Afghanistan in building two bakeries in Kabul and Parwan provinces, four confectionary plants and to set up four building companies. To pay for the deliveries of the necessary Soviet equipment and other assistance, the Soviet government has granted to Afghanistan 50 million Roubles worth of an easy term credit (Radio Kabul, 23 December).

A protocol of cooperation on building a dam on Kokcha river was signed on December 27, between the Afghan and Soviet authorities in Kabul. Based on this protocol eight Soviet experts will be sent to Afghanistan for three years to work on the project. The project, located in Khawaja Ghar district of Takhar province, is aimed at supplying sufficient water to an area of 49,000 hectares of irrigational land in that province (KNT, 28 December).

Protocols have been signed on December 23 between the RA and USSR on establishing twelve projects in the fields of chocolate production, bakery, salt refinery and construction. These projects will be established in Balkh, Herat, Kunduz and Jozjan provinces. Finances will be provided from the 50 million Rouble credit of the Soviet Union (KNT, 24 December).

A protocol was signed in Kabul on the Soviet technical assistance in connection to the establishment of technical and vocational schools in the Republic of Afghanistan on December 23. Based on this protocol the Soviet Union will assist in goods valued at 2,150,000 Roubles (KNT, 24 December).

A protocol was signed between the RA and USSR on the delivery of tar and other technical oils to meet the needs of government organizations, in Kabul (KNT, 24 December).

A protocol on the delivery of petroleum products by the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan in 1988 was signed on December 23 in Kabul. Based on this protocol the delivery began in January and the products will be distributed in the capital and provinces through pump stations and reservoirs (KNT, 24 December).

Protocols on the expansion of the prefabricated Housing Complex and services of experts were signed on December 7, by the Kabul Municipality and the Counsellor of Economic Affairs of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. According to the protocol, construction materials and equipment valued at 3,197,000 Roubles will be given by the USSR for construction of residential houses in the Microrayan area of the capital. The annual production capacity of the Housing Complex will be raised from 51,000 square meters to 10,000 square meters. Thus volume of construction will increase two fold (KNT, 8 December).

A protocol was signed on December 15, with Bulgaria to expand the poultry project of Badam Bagh in Kabul city. The project will cost 140,000 dollars and 95 percent of the cost will be met by the Bulgarian side. According to a source of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms, the extension project will be financed from the 30 million dollar credit of Bulgaria granted to Afghanistan on the basis of 1986 agreement signed between the two countries (KNT, 15 December).

In Kabul, documents on technical cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan in the field of maintenance and consolidation of project design institutions and establishment of mechanized agricultural stations were signed on December 8. According to the protocol, ten tubewells, financed by USSR gratis aid, will be dug in Qandahar province. The delivery of equipment of project

designs of the Ministry of Power Energy, including despatching of Soviet specialists, creation of seven mechanized agricultural stations, repairing and rehabilitation of agricultural project of Ningarhar irrigation complex, are provided in accordance with cooperation protocol signed in 1979 between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union (KNT, 9 December).

Protocols on Direct Cooperation

A protocol between Uzbek SSR and Afghanistan on the supply of equipment to Balkh power project valued at over 200,000 Roubles has been signed, under the protocol, the equipments will be delivered in one year and a number of Afghan technicians would be sent to the Soviet Union for further training (KNT, 20 December).

Protocols on direct cooperation between Parwan and Nimruz provinces and Kharkov and Kherson provinces of Ukraine SSR, were signed on December 21, in Kabul. According to these protocols, Kharkov and Kherson provinces will help Nimruz and Parwan provinces in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, industries, education, public Health and the future development of Jabul Saraj Cement Factory would be considered (KNT, 22 December).

Protocols on direct cooperation between Kazakhstan and Tajakistan SSR and the Ministry of Power Energy of the Republic of Afghanistan for Qandahar and Ghorī Power Projects were signed on December 16, 1987. Gratis aid of Kazakhstan SSR, consisting of machinery and electric equipment valued at 500,000 Roubles would be supplied on the basis of the protocols on Qandahar project in one year. Also, machinery and electric equipment valued at 600,000 Roubles from the gratis aid of Tajakistan SSR would be delivered to Ghorī Power zone in one year (KNT, 17 December).

Construction

The Ministry of Construction implemented during the months of March-September 1987, its plans by 107 percent in the sphere of construction and installations, the work is valued at 21 million Afghanis. This shows a 60 percent increase over the same period in 1986. Industrial production by the Ministry showed 29 percent increase of performance in Afghan Soviet Joint Projects, according to plans, it showed a 14

percent increase as compared with the same period in 1986. Sixteen projects, including Jangalak metal furnace, generator units and Herat and Qandahar irrigation projects, Central Blood Bank, Tsarandoy Academy (Police Academy), a project for the Interior Ministry, 90 km reconstruction and asphaltting of Kabul Hairatan highway, macadamization of 14 km road in the gas bearing areas of Sherbergan, construction of over 120,000 square meter area including airport and bus stations, repair of kokcha bridge and reconstruction of a bridge on Jalalabad-Torkham highway have been completed in the period between March-September 1987 (KNT, 15 December).

Much of the construction work of the airport of Khawaja Ghar district of Takhar province has been completed and on December 18, the first Bakhtar flight landed at the airport. The airport would facilitate greatly the transport of goods and passengers from Chahab, Yengiqala, Rustaq, Archi and Imam Sahib district and Dargad subdistrict and the centre of Takhar province. The airport is built by Hilmand Construction Unit at a cost of 14 million Afghanis (KNT, 20 December).

About 792 residential apartments were constructed in the nine months of the current Afghan year by the construction department of the third Microrayan. One hundred apartments out of 792 have been distributed to be disabled. The department will construct another 132 apartment by the end of the fourth quarter of the current Afghan year (KNT, 24 December).

1920 meter of big and small bridges have been repaired and 250 cubic meters stone work on streams has been carried out in Pakitya province during the period March-November 1987. During the same period 46 big and small bridges destroyed and damaged during the war have been reconstructed by the construction department with the cooperation of the people of Pakitya. In the same period a 45 km road linking Gardez with Kabul, Syed Karam, Seta Kandao, including the city centre and branch roads of Gardez were macadmized and repaired (KNT, 26 December).

Construction work of the drinking water supply scheme of Mir Bachakot city was completed and commissioned. The scheme was completed at a cost of 3,000,000 Afghanis. It will supply drinking water to ten thousand residents of Mir Bachakot city (KNT, 12 December).

Transport

Over 1629.8 thousand ton of goods were transported in the period between March-September 1987 by private and state vehicles. The plan of the Ministry of Transport was fulfilled 112.5 percent, an increase of a 12.6 percent over the same period in 1986. Out of the above 44.8 thousand tons were transported by the state sector and 1187 thousand tons by the private sector. There are 7741 trucks engaged in transportation of goods, whereas 2244 trucks belong to the state sector and 5497 to the private sector. To encourage private transporters, the Ministry of Transport has doubled the transport charges. Thus 350 more trucks were organised in this sector to transport the goods (KNT, 9 December).

Civil Aviation

The Ministry of Civil Aviation overfulfilled its plan by 15 percent during June-November 1987, transporting 12,092 passengers. This means a 17 percent growth over the same period in 1986. While in Cargo transport, the plan was achieved by 80 percent i.e. 2692 tons. The Ministry has got four AN-25, two AN-24, two Yak-40 and two Boeings used for domestic and international flights. Two TU-154-M planes with a capacity of 164 passengers were recently purchased for use on the international routes. Domestic flights operate from Kabul to Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Qandahar, Kunduz, Gardez, Khost, Faizabad, Maimana, Gala Nau, Lashkargah, Farah, Chagcharan, Zaranj, Jalalabad, and international flights to Dubai, Prague, Moscow, Tashkent, New Delhi, Amritsar and Frankfurt. The Ministry has sent 173 persons including 70 pilots and engineers for training in the Soviet Union. Taking advantage of the UN Scholarships (ICAO-WMD) 23 persons were sent abroad. To help repatriates, a five percent discount in fair is allowed to them. 27 repatriates were flown free of charge from Delhi to Kabul (KNT, 12 December).

Export

Afghan carpet won a gold medal in an international carpet exhibition held recently at Liepzig. In the period between March-October 1987, over 700,000 sq. meter of rugs and carpets have been exported abroad, showing a 75 percent increase over the same period in 1986. Over 420,000 Karakul pelts have been exported in the same period in 1987. A spokesman of Karakul Promotion Institute said that due to

the undeclared war and successive drought the production and export of Karakul pelts had declined in recent years. However the demand for Afghan Karakul pelt is increasing in the international market. It is envisaged that over 20,000 more Karakul pelts would be exported abroad by the end of the current Afghan year (KNT, 20 December).

Industrial Loans

The Industrial Development bank granted a total credit of 355 million Afghanis in the period between June-December 1987 achieving an increase of 61 percent over the credit plan, said a spokesman of the Bank. The Bank offered in 1987 to the industrial sector 633 million Afghanis credit. Out of this 225 million Afghanis were lent to the state sector and the rest to private sector and cooperatives. 20 small industrial projects like knitting, carpet weaving, plastics and leather enjoy facilities provided by the Bank, such as financial assistance, telephone, water and power supply. The credit regulations have been reviewed with the aim of assisting the private sector further (KNT, 7 December).

Agriculture

Projects

The foundation stone of a Fisheries project was laid on December 8, in Deh Araban village of Gargha. This project which is one of the development projects of agriculture department of Kabul province, would supply fish to citizens of Kabul. The project would be raised with a capital of four million Afghanis (KNT, 9 December).

A contract on the preparation of report of the technical and economic study of poultry and animal feed project which would cost 147,000 US dollars was signed between the Ministry of Foodstuff and Light Industry of the Republic of Afghanistan and Agro-Complex of People's Republic of Bulgaria. The project would be built through the 30 million Rouble credit of Bulgaria. The project will have a production capacity of three-five tons of poultry and animal feed per hour. According to the contract three plants would be built in three provinces of Afghanistan including Kabul (KNT, 5 December).

Cultivation

More than 23,000 hectares of land were cultivated during the autumn sowing campaign of the current year in Fariab province. 600 tons of improved wheat seeds, 291 tons of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides costing more than 385,000 Afghanis were distributed to peasants during the campaign (KNT, 7 December).

Over 200,000 hectares of land have been cultivated with rice in Baghlan, Kunduz, Herat, Takhar, Laghman and Ningarhar provinces during 1987. More than 480,000 tons of rice will be harvested till the end of 1987. Likewise, more than 12,100 hectares of land have been cultivated with wheat and other crops in Laghman province during the autumn campaign of 1987 (KNT, 16 December).

Over 60,000 hectares will be cultivated with cotton in Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Fariab, Balkh, Jozjan, Samangan, Hilmand, Qandhar, Herat and Badghis provinces during the autumn campaign of the current Afghan year beginning March 20, 1987 (KNT, 17 December).

Bank Discount

The Agricultural Development Bank is to give 2-5 percent discount on the sale of tractors and their accessories to cooperative and individual farmers. A spokesman of the Bank said that the bank would give five percent discount on the cash purchases of cooperatives and 3 percent to those who buy on loan basis. 2 percent discount is given to individuals who buy tractors against cash (KNT, 16 December).

5. EDUCATION, YOUTH AND HEALTH

The faculty of languages and literature at Kabul University accommodates local and foreign students, Dari, Pashto, Uzbek, Arabic, Bulgarian, French, English, Spanish, German, and Russian languages are taught in this faculty. Four modern and well equipped laboratories have recently been set up for better teaching of English, German, French and Russian languages. The faculty was established in October 1944. It has nine basic departments. About 1,118 students are taught by 131 regular and 25 foreign teachers in two shifts. The foreign teachers are from India, Cuba, GDR,

France, Bulgaria and Soviet Union. M.A. courses were established in the years of revolution in Dari, Pashto and English languages. Nineteen students graduated in 1987 from these courses. The faculty has affiliations with the educational institutions and universities of several foreign countries (KNT, 16 December).

Libraries

The public library which was once a sole library in Kabul for the public has now about 70 branches in almost all provinces of the country. A total of 400,000 books are available to readers in these branches. 65,000 persons made use of the public libraries in the period between March-September 1987. In addition to this many libraries have been set up in schools, institutions for higher and vocational education, state organs and social organizations. The future plans envisages extension of public libraries. In 1988 all provinces without exception would be having one public library at least, and existing ones would be more equipped (KNT, 16 December).

New Schools

The friendship school of the third Microrayon is a special school under the Ministry of Education and is one of the cultural projects of the Soviet Union in the Republic of Afghanistan. The school was inaugurated by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan and P. P. Mozhaev, USSR Ambassador at a function held on 27 December 1987 (KNT, 28 December).

Usted Betab school having 24 classrooms, would be built with the assistance of the Ministry of State Security in Shah Shahid area of Kabul. Before laying the foundation stone on December 3, Abdul Samad Qayyumi Minister of Education spoke about the expansion of educational opportunities in Afghanistan. Another school with a cost of 14.5 million Afghanis will be constructed in Paimunar village Deh Sabz district, Kabul province (KNT, 6 December).

The foundation stone of the building of Dukhterance Ali Khel school was laid in Laghman province. The project costing 10 million Afghanis will be constructed in an area of 1.75 hectares of land KNT, 16 December).

The foundation stone of a primary school, to be built at a cost of Afghani 3 million was laid in Pule-Agina villave, Enjil district of Herat province (KNT, 17 December).

Literacy

In the post-revolution years, close to two million countrymen have completed literacy courses. Disclosing this a spokesman of the literacy department told that "out of 326,000 countrymen currently organized in over 16,000 literacy courses, 67,985 are women, and 21,869 are school dropouts between 9-16 years of age. In the past six months over 95,000 compatriots graduated from literacy courses" (KNT, 27 December).

Teachers Seminar

The teachers winter seminar of Kabul city and other provinces opened on December 10, 1987. In the first part of the seminar new methods of teaching the subjects to the first, second and third grades are taught. The second part of the seminar covers new methods of teaching History, Chemistry, Zoology, Pashtu, English, Sociology, Geography, military training, religious education and cultural programmes. While the third part includes courses in education administration for Principals, Headmaster, Deputies and Heads of Curriculum Departments. 4,000 teachers are attending the primary school seminar, 2,000 teachers the secondary schools seminar, and 450 teachers the seminar on education administration. Teachers from 250 schools are attending the winter seminars (KNT, 19 December).

Youth

The task of the youth committees and organizations of the Ministry of State Security, in the realization of the decision of the second national PDPA Conference and Loya Jirga, were specified in the first national conference of the secretaries of the primary organizations of the DYOA of the Ministry, present at the session were Ghulam Farouq Yaqubi, Ministry of State Security and Farid Ahmed Mazdak, first Secretary of the CC of the DYOA. 100 members of youth brigade, expressed readiness to serve in the border areas of the country to prevent the infiltration of extremist groups (KNT, 17 December).

Youth Joining Armed Forces

1339 youth referred to the military commissariat of Kabul city were enlisted in the units and detachments of the armed forces. During the period between April-November 1987, 25752 youth were voluntarily referred to the military commissariat of Kabul city and joined the ranks of armed forces of the country. Some other 62 youth of Samangan province eligible for military service voluntarily enlisted at the military commissariat (KNT, 10 December).

448 youth of Jozjan province recently registered their names at the military commissariat of the province and joined the units and detachments of border forces. Over 3700 youth of Jozjan province have come to the military commissariat of the province during the period April-December 1987 and joined the units and detachments of the country's armed forces (KNT, 22 December).

In Deh Sabz district of Kabul province, 60 youth joined the armed forces. During the last three months 105 youth have joined the ranks of armed forces (KNT, 23 December).

It is said that in the first eight months of the current Afghan war, 8100 youth have joined the armed forces from Herat province (KNT, 23 December).

It is reported that over 309 youth have joined the armed forces in the third precinct of Kabul. 2482 youth have joined armed forces during the nine months of the current Afghan year from this area (KNT, 24 December).

Over 1000 youth have been organised recently in the DYDA in Kunduz province, out of them 90 youth are also organised in the PDPA (KNT, 7 December).

The 20th anniversary of the foundation of the "Peoples Front for Liberation of Palestine" (PLO) was marked at a meeting held in the central Youth Club on December 11. The function was jointly sponsored by PFLP, DYDA and the General Union of Palestinian students. The occasion was enlivened by Afghan Palestinian music and traditional dances presented by a group of Gul-e-Surkh and some Afghan and Palestinian Youths (KNT, 13 December).

Health

Pharmacy department of the Ministry of Public Health has produced 50 kinds of medicines and they are sold at fixed prices which are ten percent cheaper than that of the market, through 27 state pharmacies in Kabul city. Three state pharmacies have been set up in 1987 in Kabul city. It is planned to set up the fourth one in Khairkhana area of Kabul (KNT, 27 December).

Over 75,800 patients were examined and treated free of charge between March-November 1987, in different wards of the hospital of public health department of Kunduz province. Over 24,350 were treated in medical, surgery, eye, stomatology, pediatrics and tuberculosis wards. 23790 persons were vaccinated, first aid service were rendered to 33,000 persons and medical exams offered to 6760 persons (KNT, 27 December).

Over 3000 patients receive medical treatment every day in the state's central polyclinic. A spokesman of the polyclinic said that during 1987 over 550,000 patients were treated and 79,940 patients were given medicines free of charge (KNT, 16 December).

The 11th batch of graduates trained in Pediatrics from the Indira Gandhi Child Health Institute was appointed in several health institution of the Ministry of Public Health. About 50 physicians are studying in courses of orthopaedics, surgery, medicine, ENT and anesthesia at the Institute which are conducted with the assistance of the Government of India. The students are taught by Afghan and Indian Professors, 75 physicians have so far graduated in various courses. Medical equipments, refrigerators and electric heaters were donated to the Indira Gandhi Insstitutde of Child Health by three Indian and one Afghan trader (KNT, 17 December).

6. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Situation in Kabul

The latest picture of the situation in Kabul was depicted by a prominent citizen of Kabul, who recently crossed into Pakistan. He said people are given the lust of power and money for cooperation with the Soviet forces and participation in the communist rallies. Inflation has shaken

the life in Kabul and the consumer goods prices are going higher and higher. He further said that the fact which has not come to the knowledge of the people is that the people from the Muslim population areas of the Soviet Union are being brought to Kabul in large number and accommodated in the commercial and political life of Kabul. An impression is given about them that they are shifting from other parts of Afghanistan. He estimates that nearly 100 people of this category have been appointed to senior posts in the government. 7000 Soviet citizens who have disguised themselves as Afghans have captured the main business in Kabul. Besides the influx of these fake Afghan, and flow of bogus wealth, there is also another problem. People from the rural areas are coming in large number to seek shelter in Kabul. The Soviets have now tightened the security arrangements around Kabul and entrance into the city has virtually become impossible. The city has been particularly cut off from the rest of the country. Kabul now mostly depends for its food supply on the commodities imported from East European countries (VOA, 27 December).

Meetings of the Presidiums of Friendship Associations

A meeting of the presidium of Afghan-British Friendship Association was held. Expansion of activities of the association and strengthening friendship between the Afghan and British people was discussed at the meeting (KNT, 19 December).

The first presidium of the Afghan Cuba Friendship Association was held on December 6 in the Headquarters of Union of Friendship Associations of the Republic of Afghanistan with Foreign Countries. The meeting endorsed work plan of the association and took measures in connection with the improvement of its activities (KNT, 7 December).

Women's Councils

There are 108,931 women organised in the ranks of Afghanistan Women's council, of them, 11,401 are workers, 4506 peasants, 35070 house wives, 27,748 intellectuals, 23,780 school girls, 3,915 University students and 2,511 artisan. The chief of the organisation department of the AWC said that the council has set up 28 provincial 30 city, 48 precinct, 80 district, 253 villages and 950 residential area councils. In addition, 96 women's councils function in production institutions, 512 councils in administrative

institutions and 358 councils in educational institutions. Defending the rights of women and organising political activity and training for them are the main activities of AWC (KNT, 2 December).

Human Rights Violations

The United Nations on December 7, 1987, passed a resolution against Afghanistan for human rights violations in that country. There were 93 votes in support of the resolution and one vote was cast against this resolution. 31 countries abstained from voting. The resolution says that although the human rights situation in Afghanistan is better than before, yet the basic rights of the Afghan people are still being violated. The resolution says that because of armed confrontation the country's people do not have any kind of protection with regard to human rights violaters. Many people have been arrested without any legal proceeding

because they wanted to utilise their basic rights. The resolution also says that as a result of large scale human rights violations in Afghanistan many people have left their hearth and homes and even now many people are fleeing their country. The resolution expresses concern over the fact that the Afghan authorities with the help of foreign forces deal harshly with their opponents and their attitude is harsh also with Afghan resistance groups. The resolution calls upon all the parties involved in the conflict in Afghanistan to follow humanitarian principles with a view to ameliorate the sufferings of the Afghan people (BBC, 8 December).

Anniversary of Human Rights Celebrated

The 39th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights was celebrated by the Faculty of Law and political sciences of Kabul University. At the outset of the function which was held in Kabul University, the message of President Najibullah addressed to the UN Secretary General on the occasion of the Human Rights Day was read out by the Minister of Higher and Vocational Education (Radio Kabul, 14 December).

Social Welfare

73 plots for construction of residential houses were distributed to the deserving persons in canale-Albaironi area, Qandahar city. The housing scheme also include a health clinic, market, kindergarten and recreational park (KNT, 8 December).

Twelve residential houses were distributed on December 2 in Takhar province to the families of martyrs of April Revolution. The houses were built by voluntary work of soldiers and officers of Tsarandoy (police) unit of Takhar province (KNT, 3 December).

Culture

According to Tass News Agency, Moscow's architects offered their help in shaping Kabul's landscape and its green zone and also in carrying out its beautification programme. As part of the cultural programme, Moscow's experts are expected to help Kabul develop a network of theatres and entertainments for Kabul children. These experts are also helping to modernise Kabul's house building factory built in 1965 as a Soviet government's gift to Afghanistan (Radio Moscow, 21 December).

Fourteen winter cultural centres, with a strength of 20,000 students, have recently been established in the eleven precincts of Kabul city. These cultural centres have two main sections. In the first section, subjects of one to 12 grades of the schools are taught in different courses, while calligraphy, painting, music and other artistic subjects are taught in different Art courses in the other sections (KNT, 26 December).

Exhibitions

In connection with the 70th anniversary of the Great October revolution, an exhibition of photographs and posters from socialist countries was opened on December 17, in the Soviet House of Science and Culture. This one week exhibition displays 300 items reflecting the socio-economic progress by the socialist countries (KNT, 17 December).

A Soviet book exhibition was opened on December 23 in the Soviet House for Science and Culture. About 800 books in politics, economics, literature, art and science were on display. This exhibition will remain open for one week (KNT, 24 December).

An agreement regarding supply of the construction and technical equipment for TV studios of the Republic of Afghanistan was signed in Kabul on December 30 under the agreement cost of the equipment estimated at 7 million Roubles will be paid from the Soviet credit. The required equipment for TV studios will be provided during 1988 (Radio Kabul, 21 December).

The documentary and feature films department of Television is shooting four new TV films "The Only Son", "The Land will be cultivated", "Victim of Indulgence" and "Baba". The department takes active part in the process of national reconciliation. It made several documentaries on the theme and screened them using mobile units. Among them are "Cold Dawns", "Hellow Brother", "Dawn of April Revolution", "In the Light of National Reconciliation", "Women in the Light of Revolution", "New Vistas", "Springs may be prosperous", "National Reconciliation in Calder District" and "Friendship Between Afghanistan and India" (KNT, 13 December).

